






For

Louis A. Warren  
as a slight mark of the  
sincere esteem in which  
he is held by  
Thomas James de la Hunt

Virginia Place

June  
Nineteen Twenty-seven



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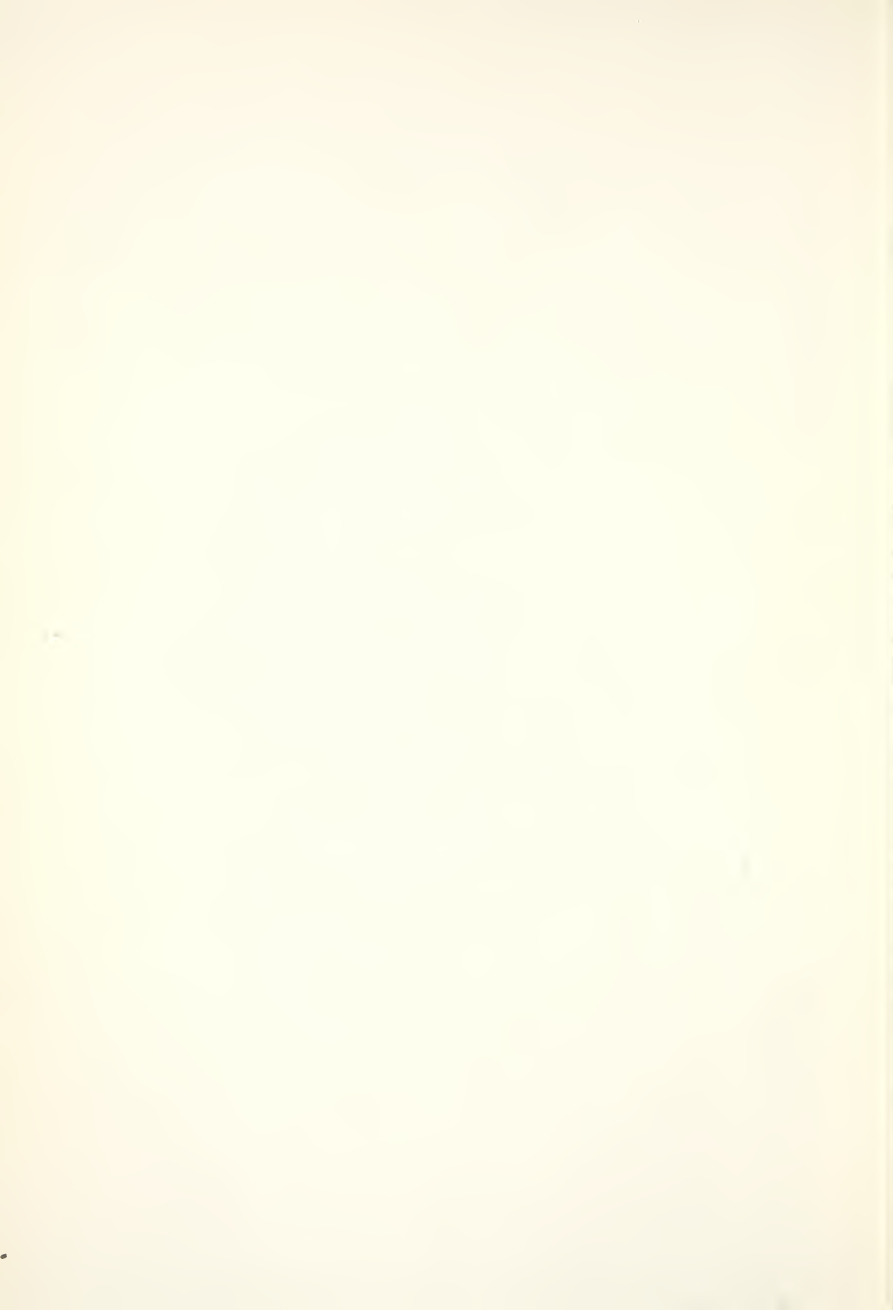
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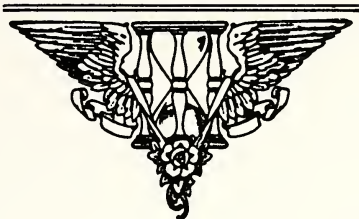






# PERRY COUNTY

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## A HISTORY

BY  
THOMAS JAMES DE LA HUNT

THE W. K. STEWART COMPANY  
INDIANAPOLIS  
1916

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**BY**  
**THOMAS JAMES DE LA HUNT**

TO A NATIVE OF PERRY COUNTY  
TO WHOSE INSPIRATION THIS BOOK OWES ITS  
EXISTENCE

MY MOTHER

ISABELLE HUCKEY DE LA HUNT

IT IS DEDICATED AS A LOVING MEMORIAL





**"To make the past present, to bring the present near"**

**—*Macaulay***



## FOREWORD

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As an author's privilege is conceded him the right to speak of difficulties met with, of obstacles overcome, in the preparation of his completed work.

Yet is it not more agreeable to recall the pleasures encountered along the roadside, the cordial assistance so cheerfully given, the spirit of ready helpfulness which ever brightened the most toilsome research?

While individual acknowledgment of such favours cannot possibly be made, it is hoped that none among those whose aid has contributed toward the material of this volume will, on such score, deem its writer unappreciative.

So marked has been the kindness shown, so encouraging the words of loyal confidence expressed, that the twelvemonth of its actual writing has taught its writer in many unexpected ways the genuine quality of Perry County friendship, which reaches across all boundary lines to lend a helping hand.

It is believed that this same warmheartedness will make every allowance due for unavoidable shortcomings or omissions in the story now offered each one who may care to read.

Virginia Place

December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifteen



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# HISTORY OF PERRY COUNTY

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## CHAPTER I

### EXPLORATION AND ORGANIZATION.

PERRY COUNTY, Indiana, is one of the first memorials to the fame of the gallant American commodore, Oliver Hazard Perry, of Rhode Island, whose brilliant naval victory over the British fleet on Lake Erie, September 10, 1813, was recognized and commemorated less than one year later by the Legislature of Indiana Territory through the bestowal of his name upon one of two new counties (Posey being the other) organized out of Warrick and a part of Gibson, by an act approved September 7, 1814.

Since, however, all history must have its beginnings with the earliest inhabitants of any country or locality, let it not be forgotten that within the metes and bounds as thus established, some material evidence then existed to give testimony that Perry County was once in possession of the Mound Builders, that singular race of nomads, or semi-nomads, who left traces of their occupancy throughout the entire Mississippi Valley. These Mound Builders being placed by reliable historians as contemporaneous with the early Assyrians, Babylonians and Egyptians, a speculative discussion of their origin, sojourn and ultimate disappearance would far outreach the plan of this volume, nothing being perhaps more completely shrouded in oblivion than this strange race. Their works form their monuments, and tradition is even more silent than their tombs.

They are called Mound Builders from their custom of building vast accumulations of earth and stone in a variety of forms which indicate that some colossal force with intelligent direction was at work in the far-gone and forgotten centuries. Investigators have classified these earthworks by their apparently probable diverse uses—military, sacerdotal, ceremonial, memorial, sacrificial or sepulchral, and under the last two heads would come certain remains described by an elder generation as once existing in Perry County. Five mounds formerly stood in the north-eastern part of the county, on the old Stephen Deen farm in Union Township, but all were opened long ago by unskilled relic-hunters, and in the lapse of subsequent years have become indistinguishable through washing, plowing and cutting down.

Some of these mounds are said to have contained only deep beds of charcoal resting upon rude altars; one, nothing beyond concentric layers of superimposed soil; while in another were a few implements of stone or bone, besides some crumbling human bones, mingled with ashes and charcoal. Had these human remains been immediately submitted to expert anatomical analysis, it might have been satisfactorily established whether they were the skeletons of Mound Builders or of Indians, who had to some extent emulated their predecessors in customs of burial, although they knew nothing of them, even by tribal tradition.

If the Mound Builders were the lineal ancestors of the Indians, the ancestry was so remote that not only was all relationship lost, but their respective osseous structure was distinctively modified in the lapse of immeasurable time. Ethnologists have found such structural similarity to the Aryan families of Central Asia that prevalent opinion now holds the Mound Builders to have descended from Asiatics who crossed to the continent of another hemisphere by way of Bering's Straits and overspread all America. This hypothesis gives base to the further argument of some

authorities identifying them with "The Lost Ten Tribes of Israel," but practical conditions alone can be dealt with herein, however fascinating the theories necessarily excluded.

Undoubtedly the first white explorers of Indiana were the French *voyageurs*—missionaries or traders—who chanted pious hymns or caroled love-ballads while paddling their shallow canoes along the mid-western streams; so, by the establishment from time to time during the Seventeenth Century, of widely scattered 'posts,' of which Vincennes was one, all the vast region lying between the Alleghenies and the Rocky Mountains came under the dominion of France; although it now seems more a dream than a historic fact that permission to traverse the bounds of Indiana once had to be humbly solicited in Paris, before that supreme voluptuary, Louis Fourteenth, whose lifelong philosophy was epitomized in his phrase, "*L'Etat, c'est Moi*," ('I am the State,') or that the right of commerce with naked redskins along the Wabash ever lay in the hand which signed the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, Louis Fifteenth, his successor.

British supremacy along the Atlantic coast was unquestioned, and England rested content with vaguely claiming the "South Sea" (Pacific Ocean) as the western boundary of Virginia, the Carolinas, Massachusetts and her other colonies. But when her traders began to push beyond the mountains they found themselves everywhere forestalled by the French; so, at length, toward the meridian of the Eighteenth Century, the English government roused to the situation.

Thus was inaugurated the struggle known in American history as The French and Indian War, called in Europe The Seven Years War, of which Thackeray wrote: "It was strange that in a savage forest of Pennsylvania a young Virginian officer should fire a shot and waken up a war which was to last for sixty years, which was to cover his own country and pass into Europe, to cost France her American colonies, to

sever ours from us and create the great Western republic, to rage over the Old World when extinguished in the New, and of all the myriads engaged in the vast contest to leave the prize of the greatest fame with him who struck the first blow."

With masterly fidelity and vivid picturesqueness is the stupendous story narrated in Francis Parkman's monumental series of volumes: "France and England in North America," also touched in thrilling verse by the magic pen of Oliver Wendell Holmes:

"Long raged the conflict, on the crimson sod  
Native and alien joined their hosts in vain;  
The Lilies withered where The Lion trod,  
Till Peace lay panting on the ravaged plain."

Under the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763, France gave up all the territory east of the Mississippi River, except the town of New Orleans, a political and geographical status which remained until the Revolutionary War, when the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 19, 1781, necessitated a new map of the American continent.

Richmond on the James then became the seat of government, after eighteen years of its administration from London, since the wide region now styled the Middle West was already part of Virginia. The eminent historian, John Esten Cooke, has said: "Her right to it rested upon as firm a basis as the right of any other commonwealth to its own domain, and if there was any question to the Virginia title by charter, she could assert her right by conquest. The region had been wrested from the British by a Virginian commanding Virginia troops: the people had taken the oath of allegiance to 'The Commonwealth of Virginia,' and her title to the entire territory was indisputable."

Richest and most powerful among the Colonies, Virginia was the foremost advocate for equality and union, to secure which she made a willing sacrifice by

yielding to the Federal government the noble principality won for her, February 25, 1778, at Vincennes, by General George Rogers Clark, the hero of Foert Sackville. As "The Territory Northwest of the Ohio," it was first organized July 13, 1787, and on July 4, 1800, a new division was created by Congress under the name "Indiana," an appellation coined from the Indians who were its inhabitants.

Notwithstanding English control, the heart and confidence of the red men had always remained with the French, and the haughty, domineering policy of the British government retarded commerce by causing the Indians to despise the English. Beyond a doubt, the foundation of Indian hostility to later pioneers throughout the West was laid in their early antipathy to the Anglo-Saxon people, which when once conceived was skilfully nourished by the proud, unrelenting natives under such crafty leaders as Pontiac, Tecumseh, Black Hawk and others, down to Sitting Bull and Geronimo.

Most of Indiana's area was originally the hunting and camping ground of three different though associated tribes, the Miami, the Wea, (or Ouatennon) and the Piankeshaw, the last-named occupying nearly all the lower Wabash Valley and ranging along the Ohio River also, their extensive possessions making them a powerful factor in the celebrated Miami Confederacy. The boundaries which these people claimed were arrogantly defined at the Treaty of Greenville, August 3, 1795, by Chief Little Turtle in the words: "It is well known to all the brothers present that my forefather kindled the first fire at Detroit, from thence he extended his lines to the headwaters of the Scioto; from thence down the Ohio to the mouth of the Wabash; and from thence to Chicago on Lake Michigan."

But as the early tide of immigration poured its flood of European settlers along the Atlantic coast, civilization took up its westward march across the Apalachians. Disdainfully rejecting the enlightenment thus

brought, the sullen, treacherous savage retired continually farther into the gloom and solitude of his virgin forests. In time, therefore, several different tribes came to dwell in the same territory, the newer arrivals being called 'permitted,' so throughout the whole of early Indiana these wandering strangers were found. Among them may be named Delawares, Potawatomes, Shawnees, Kickapoos, Wyandottes and Senecas.

The duration or scope of such varied tenure is practically indeterminable, but the period of its close is fixed through the Treaty of Fort Wayne, June 7, 1803, and the Treaty of Vincennes, August 18 and 27, 1804, with all the leading tribes who could by any remote possibility claim the lands.

All the soil of Perry County became under these agreements the property of the United States government, subject to entry for settlement, and within twelve months afterward a sectional survey was made. The extreme northern portion was surveyed by Levi Barber in September, 1804; Range 3, West, by Elias Rector, in June, 1805, Range 2, West, by Stephen Benton, during the same month; and Range 1, West, by Ebenezer Buckingham, in August, 1805.

Shortly following these surveys the Indians migrated to trans-Mississippi grants, except a few straggling remnants of tribes, isolated families who haunted the woodland countryside, occasionally harassing the earliest pioneers. When the newly surveyed sections were thrown upon the market, settlers appeared, though an interval of some two or three years went by before the first entries of lands taken up in Perry County were officially recorded at Vincennes, as the newcomers were reluctant to undertake at once a further hazardous journey across the trackless wilderness in order to file their papers in the Territorial Land Office, a frame building yet (1915) standing.

Many of these pioneers had come—as the Lincoln family did, earlier, into Kentucky—by 'broad-horn' flat-

boats, or by keelboats from the Old Dominion, and to this early influx of Virginians was largely due that lingering affiliation with Southern political principles which asserted itself sixty years afterward. Along that marvellous "Course of Empire," the Ohio River, they took their westward way, travelling the only commercial thoroughfare then available, a majestic stream with a history of imperishable significance.

Although two Moravian missionaries, Heckewelder and Zeisberger, toward the close of the Eighteenth Century, declared the name to be a contraction of 'Ohiopeekhanna,' meaning 'the white-foaming river,' the strongest consensus of opinion has always favoured a derivation from the Wyandotte 'O-he-yan-de-wa,' abbreviated on early French maps as 'Oyo,' and for the French translated by the Indians as meaning *La Belle Rivière*, the Beautiful River.

Such is the name yet handed down to the descendants of those who traversed its long shining aisle through a fair green world, beneath the sun and stars of a century and a half ago. Reaching high into the foothills of the Alleghenies and the Cumberland, beckoning to the colonists of Virginia and the Carolinas; with outspread arms stretching as far as the sources of the Allegheny at the north and those of the Tennessee to the south; the Beautiful River called through the forest stillness with musical voice, then heard by the pioneers of Perry County and today still faintly echoing its appeal of home in the hearts of all their exiled sons and daughters.



## CHAPTER II.

### PIONEER SETTLERS OF EACH TOWNSHIP.

JUST as the vast domain first organized under the title "Territory Northwest of the Ohio River," and later Indiana Territory, was reduced by successive divisions to the final limits of the commonwealth as it stands today, a similar process of elimination was followed in practically all the earliest counties of Indiana, so the extensive and unwieldy area of Perry County as created in the original enactment was gradually diminished by the respective organization of Dubois County, December 20, 1817, Spencer County, January 10, 1818, and Crawford County, January 29, 1818. Such, therefore, shall be the geographical boundary circumscribing the region whose historic events it is the purpose of this chronicle to consider.

Section 5 of the Act approved September 14, 1814, reads: "*And be it further enacted*, That William Barker, Jesse Emmerson and James Stewart, of Gibson County, Joseph Paddox and Ignatius Abell, of Harrison County, be and are hereby appointed Commissioners to fix the seat of justice in Perry County, who shall meet at James McDaniel's in said Perry County on the third Monday of November next and proceed to fix the seat of justice for the said county of Perry agreeably to the provisions of an act entitled 'An act for fixing the seat of justice in all new counties hereafter to be laid off.' " These commissioners, therefore, or a majority of them, met at the appointed time and place, pursuant to the Act quoted, to begin their labours.

The Greek classics describe Neptune, God of the Waters, as the builder of ancient Troy, a poetic para-



phrase interpreted as meaning that it was a maritime city whose site was determined upon as convenient abode for sea-faring men. Similar considerations, beyond doubt, had strong influence with the earliest pioneers who came down the Ohio River, and among these voyagers James McDaniel, Joseph Wright, John Bowie and perhaps some few others had found a haven just above the mouth of a stream which later became known as Anderson River. Here they located, with their families, negro slaves and household goods brought from Virginia, and while the exact date, claimed by some of their descendants as 1793, is undoubtedly too early, and now quite impossible to verify, it is certain that they entered land in Perry (then Knox) County during the first few years of the Nineteenth Century.

Thus sprang into existence a tiny hamlet, one of the first-born below the falls of the Ohio, sheltered under the wing of a protecting hill, a part of the lofty sandstone elevation in Southern Indiana which physical geographers classify as the extreme foothills of the Cumberland Range. Even as Mount Ida (Tennyson's "many-fountained Ida") overlooked the walls of storied Ilium, this majestic ridge dominated the landscape and watched the feeble beginnings of Hoosier Troy. It is unknown to whom the name owes its being, or just when it came into use, since it does not appear in the act quoted, and its sponsorship has never been claimed.

With constantly increasing frequency south-bound vessels passed by, among them the brig St. Clair, the first ocean-rigged craft in the West; the sea-going schooner Amity and the ship Pittsburg built at Pittsburg in 1801, which made the long river voyage to New Orleans, thence to Philadelphia and across the Atlantic to Bordeaux. Of these the Tarascon Brothers, whose name still lives on western waters, were the owners and builders.

Others constructed later at Marietta, Ohio, were the Muskingum, Indiana, Eliza Greene and Marietta, also the Dorcas-and-Sally, built at Wheeling, ranging in

tonnage from 70 to 250. But after some few successes and numerous failures it was realized that river conditions were unfavourable for the operation of such deep-bellied ships, so shallower bottomed boats superseded them as better able to negotiate an upstream voyage against floods, rapids and snags.

As all floating craft formed the habit of stopping at McDaniel's the spot became gradually recognized as a convenient landing place and its selection as a meeting point for the commissioners was a natural choice. The same arguments, added to the persuasiveness of material donations, no doubt carried weight in affecting the commissioners' decision, and after viewing several places along the river they finally fixed upon a tract of one hundred and twenty acres offered as a gift by James McDaniel, Sr., and James McDaniel, Jr. Solomon Lamb, who had come from New York state to these parts, also gave ten acres of land, and his brother, Israel Lamb, a cash donation, while among the other citizens of the vicinity sufficient money was subscribed for erection of the necessary court house and jail.

The county was next divided into the townships of Troy, Tobin, Anderson, Clark, Oil and Hurricane. This last-named appears for a time as Lamar Township, extending on the west of Anderson River from the Ohio as far north as Dubois County. As a division of Perry County, however, its existence was brief, only until the organization of Spencer County, (1818) when it became the present townships of Hammond, Huff, Carter and, lastly, Harrison in that county. Subsequent township changes in Perry County were the creation of Union, Smith, Athens and Deer Creek, all but the first having been re-absorbed into the original districts, while Leopold, the latest civil division set apart, was not created until 1847, ten years after Deer Creek had been formed.

With no intention of awarding any precedence in antiquity to one portion of the county over any other, in here enumerating some few of the earliest settlers in

each township, the townships will be taken just as previously listed, leaving claims of priority for others to determine.

Troy Township's name was derived from the same source as that of the village itself, and a very early entry at the Vincennes Land Office appears as that of Elias Rector, in 1809, taking up Section 31, Fractional Sections 32 and 5, all in Township 6, South; Range 3, West. This lay about midway between Troy and the present city of Cannelton and became the later site of Tell City.

Elias Rector was the third of nine sons born in Fauquier County, Virginia, to Frederick Rector and his wife, Elizabeth Connor, a daughter of Lewis and Ann (Wharton) Connor, of Norfolk, and probably a sister or cousin to Terence Connor, the pioneer of that name in Perry County. All these nine sons were educated as civil engineers, and in 1806 came in a body to Indiana Territory, whose area then extended from the Mississippi River to Lake Superior.

They established themselves at Kaskaskia, and formed a clan of remarkable brothers, who surveyed for the Government all the district known as Illinois after 1809, when set apart from Indiana. Besides this work, performed under appointment from Jared Mansfield, surveyor general of the Northwest Territory, whose headquarters from 1803 to 1812 were at Cincinnati, they were required to survey the lands of private individuals, many of which were old French grants difficult to outline, and for such intricate labour Congress, in December, 1809, allowed additional compensation to William and Elias Rector, upon the report of Senator Richard M. Johnson.

The nine brothers were strikingly clannish, each six feet in height, straight as an arrow, fearless yet quiet, with a chivalrous sense of honour and manners of courtly dignity. However interesting their personality, it is, notwithstanding, scarcely correct to designate Elias Rector as an actual pioneer *resident* of Perry

County. His entry was transferred within a few years to Nicholas J. Roosevelt, of New York City, a great-uncle of Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, 1902-1908.

Roosevelt's purchase of the land may be accounted for by the circumstance that he commanded the first craft propelled by steam upon Western waters, the *New Orleans*, built after Robert Fulton's model, which made one successful trip from Pittsburg to New Orleans in the late autumn of 1811. That this boat landed at Troy is a longstanding tradition of creditable probability, and may be readily accepted as true, though equal credence can not be given to the parallel story that Robert Fulton, the inventor, was himself in Troy at the same time. The most reliable contemporary records accessible give no indication whatever that he was on board the *New Orleans*, even as a passenger, when the steamer left the upper Ohio.

Nicholas Roosevelt's idea was, most likely, the establishment of a wood-yard as a depot of fuel supply for future passing steamboats; such as the Tarascon family early maintained at Shippingport (Louisville), but his sojourn in the Middle West was of short duration and his lands were soon transferred into the name of Robert Fulton.

Abraham Smythe Fulton, a brother of Robert, is said to have come to Troy, making plans for a residence upon the highest eminence near by, and a famous 'log-rolling' was arranged for. With the boundless hospitality of the age, people were invited from many miles around, even as far as the scattered pioneers in Pike (later Dubois) County, along the "Buffalo Trace" whose existence had a singular influence in the settlement of Southern Indiana.

Only the seal of the commonwealth is today a reminder that buffaloes once ranged in countless numbers all over the state, and so many thousands of the animals made their annual pilgrimage between the licks of Kentucky and the prairie savannas of Illinois,

crossing into Indiana at the falls of the Ohio, that a well defined trail eventually marked the entire distance.

A winter of extraordinary severity near the close of the Eighteenth Century froze so completely all vegetable growth that hundreds of wild animals perished from starvation and the buffalo herds never regained their loss, the last ever seen coming or going being within the first years of the Nineteenth Century.

But along the pathway beaten by their hoofs, followed by the swift *coureurs des bois*, missionaries, salt-traders and other French pioneers, the eager feet of ambitious Virginians had already begun to press, and its eastern end was surveyed in 1805 by William Rector, while Buckingham's "Base Line" was run practically parallel with the original Buffalo Trace across Pike County some miles north of what was once Perry County.

A swiftly tragic end came, however, to the merri-ment on Fulton Hill. A mighty forest monarch, hewn through by sturdy hands, caught in its fall Abraham Smythe Fulton himself, crushing out his life beneath its ponderous weight. The material already prepared was left to decay upon the ground and Fulton's was the first body interred in the Troy cemetery. No stone ever marked the spot, but old inhabitants of Troy long pointed out the grave. His mercantile interests in the village were transferred to Vivian Daniel and John Daniel (the later a son-in-law of Joseph Wright,) but the woodland acreage stood in Robert Fulton's name for another generation, known as the 'Fulton Tract' event through several interesting changes of ownership.

Aaron Fontaine, of Jefferson County, Kentucky, entered land near by about 1813, but was also a non-resident owner, always making his home some miles west of Louisville, where he kept a ferry which still gives its name to Fontaine Ferry Park, an attractive pleasure resort in the now immediate suburbs of that city.

Wait Vaughan was among the earliest to locate near

Cannelton's present site, entering on Section 15, Township 6, South; Range 3, West; where his grave, with some others of his family, is still marked by inscribed stones standing on a hill-slope of "Wilber Farm," long the property of the late Ebenezer Wilber and now the home of his eldest son, Henry H. Wilber.

Cavender, Cummings, Hoskinson and Thrasher were other pioneer landholders, besides Dosier and Casselberry whose names are preserved by two small creeks, respectively north and south of the original plat of Cannelton.

Tobin Township, unquestionably, can boast the greatest number of very early settlers, as well as some of the most prominent if not actually the first in point of time, while no other portion of the county has retained perhaps so many of its pioneer families to the present day, lineal descendants in the same name occupying the identical lands entered over a century ago by their ancestors.

This is due to the inducements for permanent residence offered by the fertile soil of the rich 'bottom,' almost surrounded by an immense horseshoe bend of the Ohio River, scant two-and-a-half miles across at its narrowest point although washed by some fifteen miles of the stream's devious course. A hundred years of continuous abode, with the resulting intermarriages, have brought about a mingling of relationship in every degree among the old families, involved almost beyond the most expert genealogist and requiring a Herald's College to disentangle.

At the extreme southern end of the bottom, land was entered in November, 1807, by the Rev. Charles Polk (then spelled Polke), the pioneer member in Perry County of a prominent and widespread American stock tracing their direct descent from Robert Polk and Magdalene Tasker, his wife, of Somerset County, Maryland, a stronghold of Irish Presbyterianism whither they had fled with other families of high position, leaving behind them valuable estates in the



mother-country and taking refuge in the province from internal dissension at home.

In 1689, the names of Robert Polk and some of his sons appear among the list of loyal subjects in Somerset County who addressed a letter to King William and Queen Mary. "Whitehall," the handsome estate, descended to William Polk I, the second son among nine children, himself the father of six. From his eldest son, William Polk II, who married M. Margaret Taylor, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, sprang eight children, of whom Thomas I became a general in the American Revolution and father of William IV, a Revolutionary colonel, whose son, in turn, Leonidas, Bishop of Louisiana, was a general under the Confederacy.

Of the same generation (sixth) as the Bishop, James Knox Polk, of Tennessee, (grandson of Ezekiel, brother to Thomas I, of North Carolina, who signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence,) became eleventh President of the United States.

The second son of William Polk I was Charles I, known in family chronicles as 'the Indian trader of the Potomac,' the father by his wife, Christiana ———, of five children, William V. Edmond I, Thomas II, Charles II and Sarah. The spelling Polke appears first in this generation.

Nine children were the fruit of Edmond's marriage, the second being Charles III (the Reverend) whose wife, Willey Dever, bore him ten children. Several died in infancy, and the most conspicuous survivor was perhaps Greenville Polk, who became a colonel in the Indiana Militia.

Jacob Weatherholt, who was a Revolutionary veteran of the Virginia Department, took up land in October, 1808, near the Rev. Charles Polke, and during the same year a tract two miles farther up the river was purchased by Alexander Miller. The Polk and Miller lines were early united through the marriage of his grandson, Henry J., son of Robert and Mary

Elizabeth (Evans) Miller, to Nancy, daughter of Greenville and Matilda (Simms) Polk.

John Winchel was born, 1760, on the estate of the "Great Nine Partners," Dutchess County, New York, and at the age of nineteen was married there to Rachel, daughter of Alpheus Avery. They came in 1809 to Indiana, and although John Winchel lived but two years in the new home, dying September 14, 1811,—perhaps from some of the strange ailments which mysteriously swept away so many sturdy pioneers in their prime—nine out of his ten children grew to maturity and married, rearing families of their own.

These Winchels of the second generation may be here named, with their marriages, although considerations of space forbid carrying the line further. 1. John, Jr. 2. Smith, m. Annie Mallory, 1805. 3. Catherine, m. Arad Simons. 4. Phoebe, m. Daniel Ryan. 5. Charity, m. Benjamin Wilson. 6. Margaret, ("Peggy") m. Israel Lamb. 7. Uriah, m. Sarah Weatherholt. 8. Roxana, m. Robert Graham. 9. Mary, m. Edmond Polk. 10. Cassandra, m. Matthew Ferguson.

Perry County, as such, was unthought of when John Winchel's family settled in one of its choicest spots, as may be noted in the entry of the land which he bought in 1809, and for which a final grant was issued by the Government in 1818. In faded yet still legible ink, on parchment yellowed by ninety-seven years, one may read:

"James Monroe, President of the United States of America:

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Know ye, that John Winchel, of Knox County, Indiana, having deposited in the General Land Office a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Vincennes, whereby it appears that full payment has been made for the west half of section thirty-three, of township seven (south,) in range two (west,) of the Lands directed to be sold at Vincennes, by the Act of Congress, 'An Act Providing for the Sale of the Lands of



the United States in the Territory northwest of the Ohio and above the mouth of Kentucky River,' or the Acts amendatory of the same; There is granted by the United States unto the said John Winchel the half lot or section of Land above described, To have and to hold, the said half lot or section of Land, with the appurtenances, unto the said John Winchel, his heirs and assigns forever.

"In testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

"Given under my hand at the city of Washington, the twentieth day of December, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the forty-second.

'By the President, JAMES MONROE. (Signed.)

"Recorded in Volume 2, Page 77, Josiah Meigs, Commissioner General Land Office."

This interesting document, one of very few—if not the only original—of its kind preserved in this vicinity, is now owned by a direct descendant of John Winchel (Doctor Arad A. Simons, of Cloverport, Kentucky,) through the marriage of Catherine Winchel to Arad Simons II, who came in 1816 to Perry County. He was born February 18, 1783, in Mansfield, Connecticut, a son of Arad Simons I (who had been in the Connecticut Marine Service, later a civil engineer) and his wife, Bridget Arnold. The Simons relationship in Tobin Township is extensive through the female line, though the name itself, as a consequence, is not so frequently met in the present generation as that of many other pioneer families.

In this same region lands were taken up during 1814 by Thomas and Henry Drinkwater; in 1815 by Nathaniel Ewing; in 1816 by Smith Winchel, George Tobin and Thomas Tobin (the latter of whom married Sarah, a sister to the Rev. Charles Polke,) George Ewing and

Lemuel Mallory, Revolutionary soldiers from New Jersey and Connecticut respectively, entered lands in 1817; Abraham Finch, 1817; Martin Cockrell, 1819. Farther from the river settled Alexander Van Winkle, 1815; Samuel and Daniel Hinton, 1817; Charity Sandage, 1818; John Crist, 1818.

Near the present site of Rome, in Section 3, Township 7, south; Range 3, west; on August 21, 1807, 182.3 acres were bought by Samuel Connor, who was a conspicuous figure in his generation. The son of a Revolutionary veteran, Terence Connor (or O'Connor) he was himself a captain during the War of 1812, and later a brigadier-general of militia. Terence Connor entered land in 1812, and two other Revolutionary soldiers, Richard Avitt and Abraham Hiley took up claims in 1816 and 1817 respectively.

John Lamb, 1809; Benjamin Huff, 1811; John Riggs, 1813; William Frymire, 1813; (both near the "Big Hill" west of Rome;) John Crist, 1814, (the ground afterward a donation toward the county seat;) and John Claycomb, 1816; were all in the same general locality. Just south of where Derby now stands, along the river, John Faith bought 255.62 acres in Section 4, August 21, 1807; Thomas Cummings, 208.03 acres, in Section 9, September 26, 1807; Abraham Barger and David Groves, 1810; Dade Connor, 1815, Adam Shoemaker, 1815; John Shoemaker, 1817; Ansel Hyde, 1817, and Adam Glenn, 1818.

Anderson Township took its name from the river, or creek, whose meanderings water its entire extent, and owing to the consequent irregularities of surface—high rocky hills intersected by deep valleys—but few entries of land were made prior to 1820 in a region now thickly dotted with comfortable homes of prosperous farmers.

The earliest pioneers recorded were William Horner, Section 25, Township 5, South; Range 3, West; Ephraim Cummings, Section 6, Township 5, South; Range 3, West; John Donnelly, Section 8, Township 6, South;

Range 3, West. These, however, do not strictly coincide with the present boundary lines of Anderson Township, which then probably extended farther east than now.

At an election held August 7, 1820, at the house of Daniel Purcell in Anderson Township, twenty-nine votes were polled, but it must be remembered that voters in that day were permitted to cast their ballots at any convenient polling-place, wherever they might be. Precincts, registration, Australian Systems, or voting machines were then undreamt of. Only a few names, therefore, are recognizable in this list today as still of Anderson Township: Jesse Barber, John Beardsley, John Cassidy, John Davis, Richard Davis, Theodorus Davis, Gideon Draper, Samuel Eslick, John Farris, Thomas Fitzgerald, David Gregory, Daniel Hendricks, James Hendricks, Caleb Hicks, William Hicks, Smiting Irish, (! *sic* Goodspeed's History, 1885.) John Jarboe, Richard Kennedy, John Lanman, Samuel Morgan, Stephen Owens, Daniel Purcell, William Royal, John Stuck, William Taylor, John Terry, Thomas B. Van Pelt, John Wheatley and William Woodall.

John Terry, with his wife Esther (Brown) and their family, came on packhorses about 1815 from Botetourt County, Virginia, into Perry County, and during their journey of several weeks met many wild animals and Indians. The twelfth of their fourteen children, Elias Terry, whom his mother carried all the way in front of her saddle, married four times, becoming himself the father of eighteen children. He was 'a mighty hunter before the Lord,' having in early times killed as many as six deer in one day.

Two of his wives were of the Sandage family, daughters of Thomas and Nancy (Simonson) Sandage, who came on horseback from South Carolina to Indiana, settling in Perry County about 1812. They had seven children, of whom the eldest, Nathan, married twice and had twelve children. Powell and Royal were other

American families coming early into Anderson Township, but its later settlement and development has been more marked through the thrift and industry of many Belgians, French, Swiss and Germans.

Clark Township is said to have been thus designated to honour a prominent early settler, Robert Clark, who on November 27, 1819, was chosen a justice of the peace at an election polling fifteen ballots. Robert McKim also was elected to a similar position, and besides the two candidates the other votes were cast by John Asbell, Solomon Byrne, Ephraim Cummings, Alexander Cunningham, John Faith, Thomas Faith, William Goble, George Hensley, Wilson Hifel, Henry Hill, Robert Hills, James Lanman and William Rowe.

Ephraim Cummings' was the earliest entry of land, Section 31, Township 4, South, Range 3, West, 1816; John Faith, Section 17, Township 4, South, Range 3, West, 1817; James Ingram, Section 30, Township 4, South, Range 3, West, 1818; Robert Ewing, Section 3, Township 4, South, Range 3, West, 1819; Allen D. Thorn, Section 25, Township 3, South, Range 3, West, 1819.

Bradshaw, Chewning, Dyer, Goble, Hobbs, Lasher, Miles, Mosby, Van Winkle and Sumner all are names of constant recurrence in Clark Township, from its organization down to the present, as substantial citizens, landholders and politicians, no less than linked together by a network of intermarriages bringing about a perplexing entanglement of kinship back and forth unto the third and fourth generations.

As an example it may be mentioned that James Lasher, a native of Pennsylvania, who had served under General Harrison in the War of 1812, and had laid the foundation of the Perry County court house and jail at Rome about 1820-22, was married there to Elizabeth Comstock (born in Kentucky) by whom he was the father of ten children, eight living to maturity: Abraham; Clarissa, m. P. H. Esarey; Isaac; Rebecca, m. Calvin Drysdale; Jacob; Elizabeth, m. Samuel

Aders; Daniel; and Mary, m. Louis W. Goble. That both parents were of profound piety, according to the tenets of the Regular Baptist persuasion, finds evidence in the predominantly Scriptural names chosen for their offspring.

Abraham Lasher, a native of Bullitt County, Kentucky, July 11, 1823, was married June 16, 1844, to Sarah, daughter of John and Martha (Thrasher) Lanman, ten children being born to this union. Following her death, he took as his second wife, Sarah, daughter of William and Rachel (Litherland) Bennett, who bore him nine children. Nineteen grand-children in only one branch of the second generation suffice to show that the Lasher lineage can not be carried further within the limits of an ordinary chapter.

Thirteen children were born to Hardin and Maria (Combs) Chewning; Daniel and Nancy (Spurrier) Weedman were the parents of fourteen; and other pioneer families of Clark Township were similarly prolific.

Of famed prowess as a hunter and trapper in the central and northern part of Perry County was John Archibald, of whom an exciting adventure was related by the older generation. One day Archibald and his wife treed a bear near their log cabin, and the former proceeded to cut down the tree, but in its fall became entangled in the branches and was pinned to the ground with a broken leg.

The bear rapidly made off into the forest, followed by the dogs, who had him again treed when Mrs. Archibald arrived on the scene, panting from her swift pursuit of the quarry. With her own trusty rifle she despatched the dangerous animal before missing for the first time her husband. Hastening back she learned only then the cause of his detention, so set to work with axe and handspikes to release him. Then almost carrying him into the house, she set out for a doctor, who dressed the wound and set the broken limb,

although its use was never fully recovered, after which she brought home the slain bear.

Oil Township, like Anderson, derived its appellation from a stream of similar name flowing through its borders, Oil Creek emptying into the Ohio River near Derby and along whose banks the first comers found many indications of crude oil, never sufficient, however, to prove commercially profitable.

The first permanent settler in this northeastern portion of Perry County was unquestionably John Esarey, a native of Wales, who, prior to the American Revolution, came over into Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where in 1776 he married Sarah Clark. The Clark name has been perpetuated through each succeeding generation of the Esareys down to the present, and verbal tradition has always claimed a connection with the family of George Rogers Clark. This, however, is open to doubt, in the lack of documentary evidence, as George Rogers Clark's lineage was Virginian, and it seems far more probable that Captain John Clark, of Revolutionary fame in Pennsylvania, who in 1774 was a grand juror from Northumberland County, and later lived in Union County where he died February 22, 1809, near Mifflinburg, was the military relative of Sarah (Clark) Esarey. Such is the data furnished by Miss Martha Bladen Clark, an expert genealogist, who is Corresponding Secretary of the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

John Esarey emigrated in 1783 to Kentucky, living several years near Louisville, afterward on Doe Run and later at Hill Grove, in Meade County. From there he crossed over to the Hoosier State in January, 1810, at "Indiana Ferry," landing at the mouth of Little Blue River.

Through singular coincidence the mouth of Big Blue River, some twelve miles farther up the Ohio, was rendered yet more dramatically historic in the family by a grandson, Captain Jesse C. Esarey, commanding the Second Battalion of the Home Guard, which cap-

tured on June 19, 1863, Captain Hines' invading Confederate cavalry, the first instance of the War Between the States where Southern troops actually crossed the border into any Northern commonwealth, antedating by a fortnight both Morgan's Raid and Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania.

A man named France rowed the pioneer Esarey family in a small canoe, while the laden packhorses bearing the household effects were encouraged to swim across. From the landing point on Little Blue River, John Esarey, aided by his several sturdy sons, hacked a way twelve miles through the virgin wilderness, locating at length upon what is now known as the A. W. Walker farm in Perry County, then a part of Knox. From that day to the present there have been Esareys in Perry County, and their Centennial Reunion in September, 1910, was the first of its kind ever held in the county.

One of John and Sarah (Clark) Esarey's sons was Jonathan David, who married Sarah Shaver, a daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Allen) Shaver, whose brother, Peter Shaver, married an Esarey daughter, thus early beginning the complication of intermarriages following ever since.

Jonathan D. and Sarah (Shaver) Esarey were the parents of twelve children, of whom only three will be mentioned, to illustrate the prolific offspring: Hiram Esarey, born April 10, 1813, married October 10, 1834, Sophia, daughter of Robert and Delilah (Phillips) Walker, born January 28, 1810. They had nine children, among whom Eliza and Matilda married, respectively, John S. and James S. Frakes, sons of Grayson and Mary (Shoemaker) Frakes.

Jesse C. Esarey married Susanna Hughes, and among their eleven children the eldest two, Mary E. and John Clark, married a brother and a sister, John W. and Barbara Ewing, children of Samuel and Maria (Falkenborough) Ewing. Another daughter became Mrs. John W. Frakes.



Jacob Esarey, born August 17, 1829, married, November 6, 1851, Barbara, daughter of Andrew and Melinda (Falkenborough) Elder, born July 28, 1832, and by her was father of eleven children. Two of these, Melinda A. and Eva E., married brothers, Emile and John A. L. Dupaquier, sons of John and Mary (Shoppie) Dupaquier, who came from France into Oil Township toward the middle of the Nineteenth Century.

In 1813 Robert Walker entered land on Section 18, Township 4, South, Range 1, West, (then Warrick County) and in 1815 William Deen came across from Kentucky and in the same section took up land which has never passed out of the family during a hundred years, but is owned and occupied in 1915 by his great-grandson, Thomas J. Deen. He also entered land in Union Township, on which were then some interesting earthworks, remains of the Indians or of the Mound Builders, which Time has long since obliterated.

Although William Deen I and his wife, Mary Hardin, were parents of only three children,—William, Stephen and Richard—the third generation was given a good start through the marriage of William Deen II to Ary Shirley, ten children being the fruit of their union. John, their eldest, married Mary ("Polly") Abel, who bore him six children, while eleven children were offspring of the second child, Richard, by his marriage with Christina Springer.

Joshua, their first born, married Helena, daughter of William and Rachel (Shoemaker) Reily, and through one of their four children—Robert L., who married Eveline Frakes—the Deen line has now been carried two generations further, to the seventh.

The custom of intermarriage was duly honoured among the other children of Richard and Christina (Springer) Deen, John H. and Mary C. marrying, respectively, Martha and Asbury Walker, (ten children resulting from the former of these unions). Marenda m. Edward McNaughton; William H. m. Tilla Dahl;



Richard W. m. Sarah Darlington; while Oil Township connection is immediately indicated by the respective marriages of Emmeline to James Esarey, Minerva to Cyrus Holmes, and Thomas J. (the youngest) to Sarepta Frakes.

James Reily was only two years later than the Deens in coming from Kentucky, entering in 1817 the land which his family owned until 1887. By his wife, Catherine Ewing Jamison, he was the father of ten children, and the inevitable double marriage occurred when the eldest two, Elizabeth and Annie, married respectively, Phillips and Samuel Walker. From the second of these two sprang seven children, two of whom married Deens, and to Asbury and Mary C. (Deen) Walker were born ten children. Robert W. Reily, who married Rebecca Horton, had only one son among seven children, and the two children of William E. and Rachel (Shoemaker) Reily were daughters, Sarepta (Mrs. R. A. Alexander) and Helena (Mrs. Joshua Deen) so the name of Reily is now less frequently met with than sundry others.

All the early men were famous hunters, and among them James Falkenborough once had a thrilling adventure with wolves in the dead of winter. While out in the forest, nine wolves began following him so closely as to endanger his safety, although they did not offer to attack him. One at a time he shot several of the animals, which the others devoured as fast as they were killed, and by thus holding them in check, he was able to reach a place of security.

Another 'bear story' handed down among the Reily descendants, and told to Helena (Reily) Deen by her grandmother, Catherine Ewing (Jamison) Reily, narrates how the family were much annoyed by the disappearance of several pigs soon after they were settled in their new home. One night, when her husband was away, a loud squealing among the pigs awakened Mrs. Reily. Going out to investigate, with her eldest two daughters, Elizabeth and Annie, they found a bear try-

ing to carry off a pig. Giving chase, they pursued the bear some distance up the hollow before he made his escape. The pig was saved, but in her haste Mrs. Reily lost a slipper which she was never able to find again.

Since Hurricane Township within so short a time became part of Spencer County, no space will here be given to its early settlement or subsequent history. Union Township, however, was created only a few years later than the others, and among its first entries were several in that small portion of the county lying east of the second principal meridian. In 1810 Joel Suttles settled on Section 17; John Heddon and Joshua Richardson on Sections 20 and 29; Jacob Davis on Section 30. In 1811, Joseph Springer, on Section 18; Valentine Borer, Daniel and Elias Heddon, on Section 19. Also in 1811 John Davis entered Section 21, Township 5, South, Range, 1, West; Jesse Shacklett, Section 13, Township 5, South, Range 1, West; in 1813, Stephen Deen, Section 11, and William Shirley, Section 13, in 1817; Anthony Horton, Abraham and Benjamin Murphy, on Section 33, Township 4, South, Range 1, West, in 1817; and William Mitchell, Section 33, (later the site of Derby,) in 1818.

Smith Township was an important locality in the early decades, but will not be considered separately, its noteworthy pioneer settlers having been already mentioned in this chapter under Oil and Clark Townships, into which it was absorbed upon the reorganization of the county in May, 1840. At that time Deer Creek Township was created, but existed only until June, 1853, when abolished.

Leopold Township was formed out of Union, Oil, Clark and Anderson in June, 1847, upon the petition of sixty citizens, the petition having been presented in December, 1846, by John Courcier, a veteran of the War of 1812. It was named in honour of Leopold I, King of the Belgians, a large colony from that kingdom having emigrated hither, in conjunction with the missionary work of the Rev. Augustus Bessonies. During

its original and earliest existence entries were made by Aaron Cunningham, 1815; John Schnell, 1816; John Frakes, John Mayo, Priscilla Crist, Daniel Miller, 1817; James Cassidy, 1819.

The earliest available list of taxpayers is that of June-July, 1815, when the county's area was much larger than now, so that among the three hundred and nineteen names enrolled are many who were soon transferred to Spencer County, hence an accurate separate roster would be impracticable, save at labour not justifiable.

The total amount of county tax collected was \$300.02½, and of territorial tax, \$70.80¼. Abraham Smythe Fulton was the highest taxpayer, \$11.25, owning one thousand acres (!) of 'first-class land.' James McDaniel was the next highest, \$10.88¼, on his tavern at Troy, four horses and one negro. Another negro was owned by Grace Barber, there being only two slaves in the county, and one free coloured taxpayer, Richard Partridge. In their order the next highest taxes were paid by John Stephenson, \$7.07¼; Charles Polke, \$6.53½; William Black, \$5.88; James Bodine, \$5.70; and Francis Posey, \$5.36½.

## CHAPTER III.

### FIRST CIRCUIT COURT AND OFFICERS AT TROY

BY THE Territorial Legislature in September, 1814, a dedimus was issued Ratliff Boon to swear in all officers of the new Perry County, in pursuance whereof the official positions were filled as follows: Associate Judges, the Rev. Charles Polke (Polk) and James McDaniel, Sr.; Sheriff, Samuel Connor; Clerk, (also at that time Recorder,) Solomon Lamb; Coroner, Francis Posey.

Ratliff Boon, while a true and typical pioneer, was not of the Daniel Boone family but came about 1807-09 from Georgia, through Tennessee and Kentucky into Indiana, locating in Warrick County where his important services were recognized by naming the county seat—Boonville—and Boon Township in his honour. Leaving with Solomon Lamb in October, 1814, a dedimus to swear in all further officers, his connection with Perry County ceased, except that in 1818 he was elected Senator for the early 'shoe-string' district then embracing Perry, Spencer, Warrick, Vanderburg and Posey Counties.

Perry County's first Circuit Court was called to meet at the house of James McDaniel, Jr., April 3, 1815, but a majority of the three judges not being present, it was adjourned until the following day when a majority still being absent, it was adjourned "until court in course." Three months later, therefore, or on July 3, 1815, at the same place, (designated by law,) the first session of court convened with full attendance; president judge, Isaac Blackford; associate judges, Thomas Polk (succeeding the Rev. Charles Polk, who had resigned October, 1814,) and James McDaniel, Sr.

Isaac Blackford was a resident of Salem and the first Clerk-Recorder of Washington County at the time of his elevation to the bench. He did more than any other one man toward establishing the early courts of Indiana upon a correct, sound basis, and the name of Blackford County (organized 1839), is a memorial to his invaluable judiciary service. Judge Blackford was one of the earliest members of the Supreme Court bench, editing the first eight volumes of its decisions, which are regarded as more authoritative than any others of Indiana's Supreme Court and are cited for precedent in pleadings in every English-speaking court room where common law prevails.

The first Prosecuting Attorney, by appointment, was Davis Floyd, a young Virginian, who had served under General George Rogers Clark and had settled in "Clark's Grant" (later Clark County) where he kept a tavern and operated a ferry across the Ohio. He had been appointed Recorder of his county, in 1801, and Sheriff, in 1802, by Governor Harrison, and in 1805 was its Representative in the Territorial Legislature, being chosen Clerk of the House.

A temporary suspension of his political career, occurring a little later, was his indictment and conviction for implication in the Aaron Burr treason conspiracy. This episode was the most conspicuous event allying Indiana with Burr's project, and Floyd's sentence was for only three hours' imprisonment, so that he soon regained his original standing. He represented Harrison County in the Constitutional Convention of 1816 and was afterward Circuit Judge in his district. Descriptions portray Floyd as a tall man, of dark complexion, with heavy voice, of rapid speech, an able jury lawyer and especially skilful in the management of a case in court.

As a practising attorney was present, at Troy, Judge William Prince, then of Knox County, in whose honour the county seat of Gibson County was called Princeton,

and who succeeded Judge Blackford in April, 1817, on the bench of Perry County.

Sheriff Samuel Connor called the first grand jury as follows: Peter Barber, Andrew Collins, Jacob Davis, Barnett DeWitt, Jonathan D. Esarey, Edward Eskins, Jesse Green, David Groves, Elias Hedden, Abraham Hiley, James Kellams, Benjamin Lamar, Elijah Lamar, Ezra Lamb, Jesse Morgan, Thomas Morton, Alexander Murphy, John Shields, William Stark, William Taylor and Jacob Weatherholt. Twenty-two in all, two less than the number then required by law, but no other names are shown on record. This empanelment, with the appointment of a prosecutor, comprised the first day's proceedings.

On the next day the first case called for trial was an appeal brought up from justice's court: William Gibson, appellant, *vs.* Abraham Hiley, appellee. Appellant desired to introduce documentary evidence not produced before justice's court, but was ruled out. Defendant prayed judgment for want of jurisdiction. Argument was had and case was continued,—a precedent of continuance ever since locally honoured, and *not* in the breach.

Indictments returned by the grand jury were: Habeas corpus, usurpation, slander, rape, adultery, one each; for unlawfully selling an estray horse, assault and battery, bigamy, divorce, two each; profanity (!), twenty-five.

The first cause tried was Indiana Territory *vs.* John Cooper for assault and battery on Daniel Weathers. Not guilty was defendant's plea, and the first jury was called. Dade Connor, William Cummings, Richard Deen, John Farris, James Falkenborough, Joseph Hanks, Daniel Hazel, Daniel McLaughlin, Daniel Taylor and John Weatherholt. David Floyd represented the Territory and John Fletcher, the defendant. The verdict returned was: "We, the jury, do find the defendant Not Guilty." The divorce cases were ordered published and the first court then adjourned.

The straggling hamlet comprising perhaps a score of log cabins was regularly surveyed about this time by Francis Posey, with Samuel Moore as his assistant, and the plat of ninety-six lots and a public square was duly recorded in March, 1815, under the official title "Troy," its street names remaining today as then.

Francis Posey was the son of Thomas Posey, the distinguished Virginian to whose name Posey County became a memorial on the same day of Perry County's christening. Thomas Posey's boyhood home was a plantation adjoining "Mount Vernon," and Washington's influence secured for the young lad at an early age a commission in the British army from Lord Dunmore, then governing the royal province of Virginia. Through the same valuable friendship he was made a general in the American Revolution. At its close he located in the new 'Volunteer State,' Tennessee, which he represented in the United States Senate when President Madison, on February 27, 1813, appointed him the last Governor of Indiana Territory, succeeding General John Gibson, who had been for a year acting-governor in the enforced absence of Governor William Henry Harrison, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Northwest.

Troy's earliest years were prosperous and hopeful. As the seat of an extensive new county it commanded the trade of many miles around, its geographical location and remoteness from other towns of consequence making it an important shipping-point and giving it a promise of growth which future developments were not destined to fulfill.

Reuben Bates was an early merchant who carried on a trade with New Orleans by flat-boat, shipping pork, corn, beeswax, hay, wood and other farm products, bringing back general merchandise from the South in return. For a while he was in partnership with James Worthington, but for much longer trafficked alone. Another conspicuous trader was James Taylor, who maintained large beef and pork packing



houses at the mouth of Anderson River. He continued this for many years, until succeeded by his son, Green B. Taylor, who then conducted the business upon a scale even larger.

Other residents during this decade may be grouped among the organizers of the first Methodist class in Troy, some time prior to 1820, although some of the names given in a list published by Goodspeed in 1885 could not have been members so early: John Huffman, Jane Huffman, James Willen and wife, Warren Duncan, Lawrence and Ann Protzman, William and Cynthia McKinley, Harvey Spillman, Mary Spillman, *et al.* About the same period the Baptists, headed by Reuben Bates and Betsey Bates, his wife, organized a society, among their co-workers being Bennett Phillips, Thomas Phillips, Rebecca Phillips, James Taylor, Abby Taylor, Green B. Taylor, the Rev. John B. Harpole, America Harpole and others.

Solomon Lamb taught school in Troy at a very early day, and tradition describes the first woman teacher in the county to have been one Annis Crocker, a picturesque figure of Perry County's 'Iliad,' captured in her infancy by the Indians and rescued from them after a romantic childhood spent in the red men's wigwam. George Phillips is said to have been a teacher in the first log school house before 1819, on the site of the present High School building, which was erected in 1872, to succeed a one-story edifice for which Warren Duncan and James Willen had made the brick by hand in 1834-35.

Troy's first and only Court House was also a log structure, which stood on the corner of Main and Franklin Streets, a site now filled by the business block of Theobald T. Gaesser. Court was held from the beginning at the house of James McDaniel, Jr., David Raymond following Judge Blackford in April, 1816, and being himself succeeded by William Prince in April, 1817, when the first seal was adopted, a small one bearing the words "Perry Circuit." This term was



the last session in the McDaniel building, as the new court house was finished by its builders, James Taylor and Aquila Huff, in time for Judge Prince to convene the July term within its walls.

Aquila Huff was a pioneer settler in the vicinity of Troy and as such deserves mention here, although the land upon which he located in 1815 remained a part of Perry County for only three years. He was the sixth child of John Huff, (Hough) a private in the Maryland Line during the American Revolution, and Elizabeth Dodderidge, his wife, who about 1784 emigrated Westward from Maryland expecting to travel down the Ohio River.

Near Pittsburg, while hunting game, John Huff was attacked and killed by Indians, but his widow and children continued their journey by boat with other emigrants as far as Breckinridge County, Kentucky, where they erected log block-houses for their residence and protection. In some such rude fortification Aquila Huff was reared from five to twenty-one years of age.

In 1807 he married Mary, daughter of Stephen Rawlins, coming eight years later into Indiana, where he resided until his death in 1857, meanwhile holding many positions of responsibility. Huff Township, Spencer County, was named for him when organized in 1837. Many direct descendants of John and Elizabeth (Dodderidge) Huff, still under the family name as well as through female lines, reside today in Perry County, besides at other points far more remote.

A very early tavern-keeper was Jacob Protzman, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Troy from Nelson County, Kentucky, where he had married Catherine, daughter of Thomas and Judith (Ferguson) Lewis, a descendant of the extensive Virginia Lewis family through the Fairfax (later Loudoun) County branch. On March 4, 1828, their daughter Louisa was married to a rising young physician of Troy, Doctor Cotton, who lived to become Perry County's leading medical authority, also a man of prominence in political circles.

Robert Greenberry Cotton was born August 8, 1804, near Bloomfield, Nelson County, Kentucky, the son of Edmund and Sallie (Dorsey) Cotton. His mother belonged to one of Maryland's finest families, and the Dorsey (d'Orsay) lineage is widespread from Colonial days to the present, embracing names which adorn many pages of history and romance.

To mention but one among her notable ancestry, it is due to say that Nicholas Greenberry, whose name her son worthily carried, arrived July 9, 1674, at Patuxent, Maryland, with his wife Anne, their children, Charles and Katherine, and three servants, in the stanch little ship 'Constant Friendship.' He soon became a leader in the royal province, holding numerous posts of honour and responsibility, including that of Governor. On page 338 of "Side-Lights on Maryland History," Volume II, (published Baltimore, 1913,) it is stated that the descendants of Nicholas Greenberry "include more men and women of national importance than can be traced to any other one personage in Colonial history."

Doctor Cotton was a member of the Legislature for a number of years, serving as Representative from Perry County, 1837-39, 1841-42, 1848-49; and as joint Senator from Perry, Spencer and Warrick, 1842-45. By a majority of only one vote was he defeated August 5, 1850, by Samuel Frisbie, as delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but he did not live to have filled the office even if chosen, his death occurring in the following month, September 11, 1850, his widow, one son and four daughters surviving him.

## CHAPTER IV.

### REMOVAL OF COUNTY SEAT TO ROME.

BY OFFICIAL returns, certified to by the clerks of the existing thirteen counties and forwarded to the Territorial House of Representatives at their session beginning December 4, 1815, Indiana's population was 63,897, of which Perry County contained 1,720, including 350 white males over twenty-one. On the 14th of the month a memorial was adopted which Jonathan Jennings, Territorial Delegate, two weeks later laid before Congress praying admission to statehood.

The memorial was referred to a committee with Mr. Jennings as its chairman, by whom on January 5, 1816, a bill was reported to the House of Representatives of the United States enabling the people of Indiana Territory to form a Constitution and State government, and for the admission of such state into the Union upon an equal footing with the original states. After amendment in some of its particulars, the bill was passed by Congress, and with the signature of James Madison, President, became law on April 19, 1816.

In conformity with the provisions of such law, on Monday, May 13, 1816, in the several counties of the territory an election was held for forty-three members of a Constitutional Convention, chosen in accordance with an apportionment which had been made by the Territorial Legislature and confirmed by an act of Congress.

Perry County was represented by the Rev. Charles Polk, whose name appears in the recorded proceedings as "Polke of Perry," a cousin of his William Polk, being "Polke of Knok," a resident of Vincennes. Both men were of that prolific family whose American pro-

genitors were Robert Bruce Polk and Magdalene Tasker, his wife, who came from Scotland and settled in Somerset County, Maryland, prior to 1689. The convention met June 10, at Corydon, which had become the territorial capital in 1813, winning out in a contest with Madison, Vevay, Lawrenceburg, Charlestown, Clarksville and Jeffersonville. Jonathan Jennings was chosen presiding officer, William Hendricks, secretary, and the meetings continued from day to day until June 29, when, having completed the work of forming a State Constitution, the session closed by adjournment *sine die*.

Despite the massive blue-limestone walls and the fifteen-foot ceilings of the capitol building, then new, the warmth of June sunshine in Southern Indiana made its pent-up inclosure irksome to these sturdy pioneers, inured to hardships of the outdoors, so many of their deliberations were held under the shade of the huge elm tree which yet stands near the bank of Big Indian Creek, some two hundred yards northwest of the public square. This tree is Corydon's pride and glory, its preservation being the particular charge of Hoosier Elm Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

A delightful pen-picture of this constitutional assembly, drawn by Miss Julia S. Conklin in her History of Indiana, deserves reproduction here, since it may be termed a composite portrait whereof Perry County's delegate was a component part.

"They were a grave, serious body of men, these fathers of our Constitution," Miss Conklin writes, "and is assembled in our legislative halls today would be a strange-looking company, so greatly have manners and dress changed since Indiana became a state.

"They were not much given to fashion, save the fashion of the back-woodsmen, and were as rough and rugged in appearance as the country they represented. Many of them wore homespun—handwoven clothing—made by the pioneer wife and mother without the aid of a sewing machine, cut by rules unknown to the

tailors of today, for fit and style were a secondary consideration, warmth and wearing qualities being first.

"Some of them wore the buckskin trousers and coon-skin cap of the pioneer, a garb well suited to the exposures they encountered; heavy high-topped boots covering their feet and lower limbs. But rude as they may have been in appearance, they were men of common sense, firm in integrity and honest purpose, some of whom became truly illustrious in the early history of Indiana."

The same clear-minded, unpretending practical judgment which sent these legislators of unquestionable patriotism and moral stability into the fresh air for consultation, gave Indiana a Constitution inferior to none that was in existence at the time. Its concise clarity of style, its just and comprehensive provisions for maintenance of civil and religious liberty, its mandates designed to provide for public welfare, to protect the rights of the people individually and collectively, all bespeak of its framers their familiarity with the theories of the Declaration of Independence, their Territorial experience under provisions of the Ordinance of 1787, and their knowledge of the principles of the national constitution. With such landmarks in view, the result was a document rendering comparatively easy the labours of similar conventions called later in other states and territories.

No handwriting on the wall, however, needed interpretation for the Trojans of 1816, to signify that their kingdom was numbered and finished. Just as changed territorial limits had cost Vincennes her position as capital, so when the western boundary of Perry county was moved from Pigeon Creek eastward to Anderson River, by the act of January 10, 1818, creating Spencer county, Troy's value as a central point vanished, and another act was soon passed by the same Legislature providing for a relocation of the county seat of Perry county.

Samuel Snyder, of Warwick county; Samuel Chambers, of Orange county; William Harrington, of Gibson county; Ignatius Abell and Jacob Zenor, of Harrison county, by this act were appointed commissioners to meet on the first Monday in March (2d), 1818, at the house of Aaron Cunningham, to re-locate the seat of justice for Perry county.

Further provision of the act authorized Samuel Connor, county agent, to annul with every individual who so desired all contracts made for the sale of lots in Troy, each purchaser surrendering his lot and receiving back the money paid thereon, with interest. The donations of the McDaniels, except such portions as had been sold, reverted to them and they were to be paid with interest the price received for lots given. The town plat of Troy should be vacated, should the citizens so desire, and the remaining land owned by the county was to be advertised and sold, ten per cent of the proceeds realized to be used for the establishment and maintenance of a county seminary. All these provisions, except vacating the town site, were duly carried into effect.

The labors of these commissioners (or a majority of them) when they met were conducted along lines closely parallel to the proceedings of that earlier board which had chosen Troy. Accessibility and convenience in transportation logically commanded a location upon the only commercial highway, the Ohio river, and after due deliberation and inspection the choice fell upon a site approximately bisecting the winding course of the county's southern boundary. This was opposite the mouth of Sinking Creek in Breckinridge County, Kentucky, now Stephensport, where the allied Stephens, Minor and Holt families had taken up extensive government grants for services in the American Revolution, Nicholas Minor III, a member of the same family connection, coming early into Perry County, where many descendants perpetuate his name to the present.

Here, upon a somewhat narrow though level tract

projecting into Kentucky, in May, 1818, Uriah Cummings had laid out under the name Washington a town-site embracing a public square, one hundred and eighty-nine lots, and fifteen outlots. With the exception of such lots as had already been sold, all this land was given by Cummings to the county, in consideration of fixing the county seat thereon, besides the donation a little later of an additional forty acres adjoining. At the same time thirty-five adjacent acres were sold to the county by John Crist for \$300.

By way of explaining the speedy change of name, it should be stated that it was necessary, to avoid duplication, the Father of his Country having been honoured during the preceding year, on August 18, 1817, when the newly located county seat of Daviess County assumed the title of Washington in substitution for that of Liverpool, the style under which it had been originally platted.

The many-sided Benjamin Franklin appears to have been next in favour among distinguished Americans worthy of veneration, so the plat was re-entered under the name Franklin in the autumn of 1818, although the last court ever held at Troy, in October of that year, with David Hart as president judge, adjourned to meet in the following February "at Washington."

When, however, the initial court at the new county seat convened, in February, 1819, it was at Franklin, Richard Daniel producing his commission as president judge, with James McDaniel, Sr., and John Stephenson as his associates. Willis C. Osborn was admitted to practice, though little was on the docket save cases of assault and battery. At the term in May, 1819, Samuel Fribie, Charles I. Battell, G. W. Johnson and G. W. Lindsey were admitted. James Main obtained a verdict of \$45 for slander, against John Dunigan; James McDaniel recovered judgment for \$349, with interest from April, 1815, against Thomas Polk, James Lanman and David D. Grimes, county commissioners,



although upon what plea is not indicated in any record found.

Just why the title of Franklin was not retained may never be known to this generation—whether practical considerations, as in the case of Washington, or merely sentimental bias toward antiquity. The probability of the latter is based on a peculiarity of the times, especially marked in Governor William Henry Harrison—an exalted reverence for the republics of Greece and Rome.

Our earliest statesmen naturally directed their attention to those governments in the search for experience whereby they might guide our first tottering footsteps, and such—added to the circumstance that culture in that day was indicated by its wealth of classical allusion—gave to everything set down in writing a strong flavour of the antique.

Harrison far surpassed even his contemporaries in this respect, and even in his papers of state, declares Jacob Piatt Dunn, the Indiana historian, “if Leonidas, Epaminondas and Lycurgus escaped, Cincinnatus, Scipio or the Gracchi were sure to be taken in the net.”

Not infrequently is it the idiosyncrasies of great men, rather than their stronger characteristics which are copied by admiring followers, hence the surmise that General Harrison’s choice of Corydon as the name for Harrison County’s capital (drawn, we are told, from an old-time classic ballad which was one of his favourites), had its weighty influence in the second and final change in the nomenclature of Perry County’s metropolis.

No mythical Romulus and Remus figure in local traditions of the period, the level land boasts no Seven Hills as a “throne of beauty” in geographical suggestiveness, yet classic history was again drawn upon by the sponsors for the infant community, and a new Rome was christened, whose history has its beginning not *Anno Urbe Condita* (from Foundation of the City) but from the term of September, 1819, when the



name Rome first appears on the records of the Perry Circuit Court, Samuel Liggett and Samuel Hall being then admitted to the bar.

As ancient Rome outlived the first Troy, even so the years when all Perry County roads led to Rome outnumbered the brief period of Trojan dominance. Best and proudest, however, were the earliest days of Hoosier Rome, Destiny holding in store for the county capital on the Ohio River a period of decline and fall swifter and more complete than that of the Empire which once held sway in the Eternal City beside the yellow Tiber.

## CHAPTER V

### REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS AND SOLDIERS OF 1812

Six months after the first term of court on record as held at "Rome," or in February, 1820, James R. E. Goodlett succeeded Richard Daniel as president judge, with Samuel Hall as prosecutor. It is related of Judge Goodlett that he was neither ready nor brilliant as a practitioner, thus lacking two of the qualities essential to a successful advocate; but, always forming his opinions after mature deliberation, he was in his proper sphere upon the bench and continued as judge until 1832, residing for several years of this time in Paoli, Orange County.

Several certificates of service in the American Revolution were entered in the court records during Judge Goodlett's term, and reference will here be made to those "venerable men—come down from a former generation," who had lived, as Webster eloquently said, "to see their country's independence established, and to sheathe their swords from war." The data given has been drawn from various sources wherever possibly available, in the wish to give the fullest credit due each individual.

Premier mention must be awarded to Terence Connor, a Virginia scion of that distinguished O'Connor family whose name occurs on well-nigh every page of Irish history. Not, however, on such account is he listed first here, but because of his own personal value as a pioneer resident of Perry County and the extensive progeny surviving him. His direct descendants maintain the Connor name in many other states besides Indiana, and, through the female line as well, perpetu-

ate the spirit of unselfish patriotism and public service which was his.

Terence Connor was born in 1757, in Virginia, and there married Sarah Speaks, the mother of his eight children, whose names, with their marriages, follow: 1. Dade, married Sadie Huff. 2. Samuel, married (a) Elizabeth Claycomb; (b) Nancy Hyde. 3. William, married Elizabeth Green. 4. John, married (a) Elizabeth Crist, (b) ——— Sinclair. 5. Terence, Jr., married Marilla Crow. 6. Elizabeth, married Anthony Green. 7. Margaret, married Samuel Frisbie. 8. Jane, married Elijah Carr.

Terence Connor enlisted in September, 1776, in Prince William County, Virginia, in the Virginia Line Continental Troops, under Colonel Daniel Morgan, in the brigade commanded by General Woodford, serving three years and two months, or until honourably discharged by General Woodford, at the Bush encampment on North River.

Some time prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century he came with his family across the mountains into Kentucky, having received from Virginia bounty-lands in what was "Fincastle County" when a part of the mother state.

As in the case of many other families, Kentucky was but a stopping place for the Connors, and in 1807 they settled permanently in Indiana, Samuel Connor then entering lands in Perry County and Terence Connor, Sr., taking up more, five years afterward. By Act of May 25, 1819, he became eligible to an annual pension of \$96 and was placed upon the rolls September 10, 1819, some twelve years after his earliest recorded residence in Perry County.

He continued a pensioner until his death, December 16, 1841, which occurred at Troy, although his remains were interred near Rome, in the "Connor Burying-ground," on a portion of the land he had taken up in 1817, which estate has never passed out of the Connor blood, his descendants in the sixth generations now re-

siding thereon, and the stone at his head bears the inscription:

“A Soldier of the Revolution.

An Associate of Washington and Lafayette.”

George Ewing was born March 16, 1754, at Greenwich, Cumberland County, New Jersey, the great-grandson of Finley Ewing, of Dumbarton, Scotland, and County Derry, Ireland, who had been an officer under William of Orange at the battle of Boyne Water, 1690.

His military services in the American Revolution had their beginning November 11, 1775, when he enlisted in the Fifth Company, Second Battalion, First Establishment, New Jersey Line, Continental Troops, and as he kept from thence forward a diary which is still in possession of his descendants, the full details of his career are easily traced, including Montgomery's ill-fated expedition against Quebec; the battles of Germantown and the Brandywine, and the winter at Valley Forge.

He was commissioned an Ensign, February 5, 1777, and August 10, 1778, married Rachel, daughter of Nathaniel and Abigail (Padgett) Harris, at Greenwich. They removed in 1786 to Ohio County, Virginia (now West Virginia) and six years later into the state of Ohio, whence they came in May, 1818, to Indiana, taking up land as recorded.

He was placed on the Pension Roll, January 31, 1820, under Act of April 20, 1818, at \$240 per annum, drawing this amount until his death, January 15, 1824; Rachel, his wife (born September 2, 1750), following him September 29, 1825. They were buried near the bank of the Ohio River, in Tobin Township, in Section 8, Township 7 South, Range 3 West; but their headstones err slightly in the dates of death and in the ages given, the particulars here stated having absolute authority. Their burial place having passed out of the

family and through many changes (being now a part of "Sunnycrest Farm," Captain I. H. Odell's estate), in 1907 the remains were removed by a descendant, John G. Ewing, of Roselle, New Jersey, to Cliff Cemetery, Cannelton, where the ashes now repose in the Latimer family plot, descendants through the female line.

Many other names are in the direct line of descent from George Ewing, Sr., but the only Ewings of his blood in Perry County are those living in the vicinity of Magnet, the grandchildren of Lafayette Ewing, son of George Ewing, Jr., eldest son of George and Rachel (Harris) Ewing. Their second son was Thomas Ewing, one of Ohio's notable lawyers, twice a United States Senator from that state, and twice in the Cabinet, as Secretary of the Treasury under William Henry Harrison, and under Taylor the first to hold the newly-created portfolio of Secretary of the Interior. His daughter, Ellen Ewing, married William Tecumseh Sherman, the famous general.

Other Revolutionary veterans living in the county at this time, or somewhat later, will be here enumerated for convenience, though it is impossible to give in each case the authentic official particular of their service.

Richard Avitt enlisted in the navy at Newcastle, Pennsylvania, serving on the ship "Alpea," under Commodore Hopkins, and later on the black brig, "Andariah," under Captain Courtney. Afterward he enlisted in the artillery, under Colonel Thomas Proctor, of the Pennsylvania Line Continental Troops, where he served three years and became a sergeant.

As such he was placed on the pension roll September 16, 1819, under Act of May 24, 1819, at the annual rate of \$96. He drew this up to his death, June 12, 1826, but the place of his burial can not be identified, though he had lived in Tobin Township at or near Rome, and had, on August 3, 1818, cast his ballot in an election held at the house of Lemuel Mallory. Prob-

ably his remains were laid in some now forgotten family burying ground.

Lemuel Mallory, who came in 1817 into Tobin Township, had been a private in the Connecticut State Troops. He was born May 22, 1763, at Ripton Parish, Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut, and at the age of only fifteen volunteered, during the summer of 1778, serving for eight months with Captain John Yates, under Colonel Heman Swift. In March, 1780, he re-enlisted under Lieutenant Pinto in General Stark's Brigade.

He made application for pension May 16, 1833, under Act of March 4, 1831, and was placed on the rolls October 18, 1833, at an annual rate of \$80. He lived until February 16, 1851, dying at Rome where he was buried in the "Shoemaker Cemetery." Although blind in his last years he was said to have retained his memories of battle experiences with close accuracy.

He was twice wedded, and descendants of his first marriage are yet living in Perry County, as well as the descendants of his brothers, Lanson and Moses Mallory. There were no children by his second wife (whom he married August 15, 1819, in Corydon), Mrs. Rebecca (Reagan) Lang, born November 15, 1767, in Frederick County, Virginia, and herself the daughter of a Revolutionary soldier, Michael Reagan, by his wife, Nancy O'Connell.

Michael Reagan was born 1743, in Ireland, and came in young manhood with other North-Ireland Presbyterians into the northern end of the Valley of Virginia, where he married, his wife belonging to the same family as the Irish "Liberator", Daniel O'Connell. Frederick County lying close to the state line of Pennsylvania, Michael Reagan (Regan) enlisted for the war, September 9, 1778, in Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Miller's company in the Second Pennsylvania Regiment, commanded by Colonel Walter Stewart. His name also further appears on the roster of the same company

and regiment in April, 1780, Lieutenant-Colonel John Murray then commanding under Colonel Stewart.

Through this record of service, on file in the Record and Pension Office of the War Department at Washington (Pennsylvania Archives, 2d Series, Volume 10, Page 424), his descendant, Mrs. Isabelle (Huckeby) de la Hunt, became the first member in Perry County (No. 39017) of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Michael Reagan died 1823, in Sevier County, Tennessee, where he is buried, his descendants abounding in the Southern Atlantic and Gulf States. A distinguished representative and close relative to Rebecca (Reagan) Lang-Mallory, was John H. Reagan, of Texas, Postmaster-General of the Confederacy, afterward United States Senator from Texas and the last survivor of the Jefferson Davis Cabinet.

Lemuel Mallory's pension was continued to his widow from November 16, 1853, until her death, February 21, 1856, at Rome. Her first husband, John Lang, had been like herself, a Virginian, and they came with their family and household effects across the Blue Ridge mountains to the Monongahela River, thence by flatboat down that river and the Ohio to Jefferson County, Kentucky, where they lived for a time before crossing into Indiana and establishing themselves in Harrison County. John Lang rode away from Corydon in 1811 to join the forces of General Harrison at Vincennes, but never came back—shot by the Indians early one morning when on duty as sentinel.

His widow continued to reside in Corydon during several of the years when it was the territorial and state capital, making her home with a married daughter, Mrs. Samuel Littell (Rachel Lang) until removing to Rome after her own second marriage. The elder Lang children, by their father's first marriage remained in Harrison County, others going on into Spencer County, where the name is still widely repre-



sented in the thrifty farming country of Ohio and Luce Townships, besides in professional circles of Rockport.

Jeremiah York enlisted as private in the Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Continental Line, Captain Springer his commanding officer, and was pensioned August 27, 1833, at \$80, under Act of March 4, 1831. Neither date nor place of his death could be verified, though the York name is still in existence near Derby.

Thomas Green Alvey was a private in the Maryland Continental Troops, under Colonel Ramsey, and fought at the battle of Paramos. He was given a \$96 annual pension, September 29, 1819, under Act of May 24, 1819. Many of the Alvey family live in different parts of the county, but the location of his grave was nowhere identified.

Abraham Hiley closes the list of authenticated Revolutionary pensioners who were residents of Perry County, receiving an \$80 annual bounty, under Act of March 4, 1831, from March 14, 1834, in recompense for his services as private in the Pennsylvania Militia. His grave is beside that of his wife, near Bear Creek in Tobin Township, on the "Hardin Grove" estate, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Kepler Groves (Mildred Dessa Ramsey). His descendants remain only under other names through the female line.

Jacob Weatherholt, while not a pensioner, was a Tobin Township pioneer whose military service is authenticated by W. T. R. Saffell's "Records of the Revolutionary War" (pp. 280-281). Born 1758 in Virginia, he enlisted in the Western Department, and March 1, 1780, was honourably discharged from the Detachment of Colonel John Gibson, who served from January 1, 1780, until December 6, 1781, when he surrendered his command to Brigadier-General William Irvine.

Jacob Weatherholt died April 23, 1837, and was buried in the "Upper Cemetery" at Tobinsport, beside his wife, Sarah (——) Weatherholt. Their descendants are many in both Perry and Breckinridge Counties, and their youngest child, Mrs. Milicent



(Weatherholt) Pate, died in Cloverport in only 1915, one of the very few then living to claim the distinction of being a "real" Daughter of the American Revolution.

This same Tobinsport burying ground is one of the few cemeteries in Southern Indiana where two authenticated veterans of the War of Independence are buried, and the first interment taking place within its bounds was that of John Lamb in 1818. Rude stones which have never felt the chisel are the grave's only markers at head and foot, but its location has always been distinctively identified from the circumstance that it lies at a peculiar angle wholly different from any others in the cemetery. Steps are being taken (1915) to procure for it an official Government headstone suitably inscribed.

John Lamb was born May 22, 1757, in Albany County, New York, and had not quite attained his twenty-first birthday when he enlisted as a private in Captain Barent J. Ten Eyck's Company, Second New York Regiment, Continental Troops. He served from May 5, 1778, until February 5, 1779, and we may reasonably assume that the causes then interrupting for awhile his military career were of a sentimental nature, since on March 21, 1779, he was married to Beulah Curtis, by whom he became the father of twelve children. Within the same year he re-enlisted, serving 1779-80-81 in Yates' Regiment of the New York Militia. In 1808 he removed from New York to Indiana, entering land the following year in Perry (then Knox) County, near Tobinsport, where he died in 1818.

The twelve children of John and Beulah (Curtis) Lamb were: 1. Solomon. 2. Beulah. 3. John, Jr. 4. Katherine. 5. Ezra. 6. Israel Thompson. 8. Bathsheba. 9. John Willis. 10. William B. 11. Dorastus. 12. Rudolphus. From these sprang such an extensive progeny that scarcely a pioneer family of Tobin Township has not now some descent from or connection with the Lamb line.

In the northern portion of the county but two Revolutionary graves have been located. Thomas Rhodes was said to have served with the army of General Gates. He came into Oil Township as a homeless man, and was cared for by the family of James Reily, the pioneer, among whom he died. A plot of ground on his farm had been set apart and given to the public by James Reily as a free burying ground, but Rhodes' was the first and only interment ever made on the spot, as the cemetery was located a little later at what is now known as the "Walker Grave-yard." Joshua Deen, who married Helena, daughter of James and Catherine Ewing (Jamison) Reily, and purchased the farm from the Reily heirs, cleared the ground originally proposed for a cemetery and cared for it as long as he lived there, cutting the name of Thomas Rhodes on a large tree at the head of the grave. He later removed to Pike County, and James Goldman is now (1915) owner of the property.

The second Revolutionary grave referred to as in Oil Township is that of Jacob Shaver, buried in the Oil Creek Cemetery, about a mile northwest of Asbury Meeting-house. He had married Nancy Allen, an own cousin to General Ethan Allen, the hero of Fort Ticonderoga, and their daughter Sarah was the wife of Jonathan D. Esarey, with whom the Shavers came into Perry County in the second decade of the Nineteenth Century.

David Harley enlisted at Philadelphia under Captain Shay. He was captured at Fort Washington and held prisoner by the British until paroled. Afterward re-enlisting, he saw service on Long Island.

Silas Taylor had enlisted in Pennsylvania under Captain Lenox, serving at Germantown and Chestnut Hill, and was finally present at the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 19, 1781.

Benjamin Rosecrans enlisted in New York under Colonel Morgan, and was with him at Short Hills, Red Bank, Princeton, Trenton, York Island and White

Plains. It was told of him that he claimed to have often seen George Washington, who spoke to him, and once took him by the hand. This may or may not have been true.

Thomas Bolin, who had enlisted as a private in the North Carolina Militia (no date found), was granted a pension October 15, 1833, under Act of March 4, 1831, but its rate \$60 per annum, might seem to indicate his service as having been performed in the War of 1812, especially as his age was then given as 67, which would place his birth in the very year of the Declaration of Independence.

Perry County's most conspicuous representative in the War of 1812 was Captain Samuel Connor, who raised a company in the county, with some reinforcements from the Kentucky side of the river opposite Tobin Township, the home of most of the privates. Captain Connor's company was mustered in for three months' service, in August, 1812, at Princeton, as part of the regiment commanded by Colonel Ephraim Jordan.

They were sent to Vincennes and assigned for duty north of that point, although their actual service could not be more definitely ascertained. Squads of the company were engaged as guards for transport wagons and mail carriers in their course along the banks of the Wabash between the post at Vincennes and Fort Harrison near Terre Haute. Skulking Indians, of course, were often seen, but it is not known that any of the company were killed or wounded by the redskins.

Among the enlisted men are preserved the names of John B. Alvey, Terence Connor, Jr., Richard Deen (son of William and Mary (Hardin) Deen, of Oil Township), Thomas Drinkwater, Robert Gardner, Daniel Hays, Hart Humphrey, Samuel Kellums, Solomon Lamb, Edward Morgan, Robert Niles, Edmond Polk, Stephen Shoemaker and Joseph Tobin. Edmond Polk, who was a son of the Rev. Charles and Willey

(Devers) Polke, married Mary, daughter of John and Rachel (Avery) Winchel, and their two children, Avery Polk and Miss Margaret Polk, are yet living (1915), a direct link with the Second War with England.

In a company raised by Captain David Robb at Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, Kentucky, were several men probably then and certainly afterward residents of Perry County, although accredited to Kentucky; John Crist, Alexander Cunningham, James De Jarnett, Philip Jenkins, John Riggs and William Weatherholt. The company lost several men at Tippecanoe, fighting in the Kentucky regiment commanded by a Colonel Allen, in whose regiment was also a company commanded by Captain Joseph Allen. It served three months, and among the privates mustered out at Shakertown were Philip Miller, Peter Miller and Benjamin Smith, who lived at a later date in Perry County.

Thomas Royston served in the east under Captain Rutledge, of Maryland, enlisting at Baltimore. He died June 25, 1855, at Rome, aged 82, and was buried on the Jehu Hardy lot in the Connor Cemetery.

Thomas Gilham was in Captain Pittman's company, raised at Winchester, Kentucky, for Colonel Taylor's regiment. William Dodd enlisted at Louisville, serving in the "Hopkins Campaign," under Captain John Jones, under Colonel Wilcox. John Courcier, who is buried near Leopold on what is now the estate of the Marcilliat family, received a grant of land in that township of his services. His descendants under his own and other names reside in Perry and Spencer Counties, and through his approved records the lineage is registered in the Indiana Society United States Daughters of 1812.

## CHAPTER VI

### BRICK COURT HOUSE AND EARLY RESIDENTS AT ROME

ROME'S palmy days were her earliest, and the erection in 1820-22 of a brick court house—handsome for its time and built with a care shown by its yet excellent state of preservation—seemed to prophesy a career of enduring prosperity.

In general style and dimensions the building closely copied other county edifices of the same period—square, two stories, with hip roof and central cupola; its architectural lines strongly suggesting Indiana's first state house in Corydon; or the ancient court house of Nelson County, Kentucky, in the public square of storied Bardstown, once the refuge of an exiled French king.

The lapse of a century and the complete disappearance of the county records for Perry County's first decade, make it impossible to designate positively the actual pioneer residents upon the town plat of Rome (the former Washington). It may have been that the oldest volumes of all were never removed from Troy to Rome, since it was reported by Judge Goodlett in 1820, after inspection, that the clerk's office had not been kept as the law specified after the organization of the county, part of the records being then at Troy and part at Rome.

With such easy going methods of procedure, it is not a rash supposition that some of the immediately succeeding volumes were left behind when the county seat was finally re-located in 1859 at Cannelton. The compilers of a historical sketch published in 1885 declared that the most minute and protracted research failed to reveal any County Board reports of date

prior to 1826 among the musty archives of the court-house then in use, and similar investigation thirty years afterward, in the present Court-House basement, proved equally fruitless of result.

An approximate grouping, therefore, is all this chapter may claim to be, giving such names and particulars as can certainly be mentioned of those whom earlier authorities definitely establish as citizens of Rome during its first dozen years of existence. Terence Connor and his sons were a family of particular prominence; also Lemuel Mallory, George Ewing, Solomon Lamb (who as Recorder-Clerk moved with the county seat from Troy to Rome), and Samuel Frisbie (son-in-law of Terence Connor, Sr.), prosecuting attorney for a long term of years, in succession to William Hall, besides teaching one of the earliest schools.

John W. Ricks was for many years the leading merchant, even establishing a chain of branch stores at various other points in the county. He likewise owned a grist- and saw-mill run by the water power of Poison Creek, the stream's name having its origin from a spring whose water was believed to have caused the death of an early hunter who drank of it about the time of the survey in 1805.

Ricks was an extensive pork-packer, but did no slaughtering himself merely buying the fresh meat from the farmers, among whom it became customary to collect their hogs into large herds which were driven at the beginning of winter to Rome and there slaughtered for immediate sale, packing and shipment. In each season Ricks usually sent South at least one boatload of 25,000 pounds of pork, besides oats, corn and produce; also live cattle, to say nothing of blooded horses, though he commonly found ready sale in Kentucky for the finer strains of horseflesh. He became a rich man by his trading ventures, and his sons, who went to California during the "gold fever" added to the wealth they had inherited.

Samuel Anderson was one of the first inn-keepers,

also dispensing liquor over his bar. Two corn-mills and distilleries were operated in the neighbourhood, by Samuel Connor and Uriah Cummings, respectively. Everybody—men, women and children alike—in that early time drank whiskey whenever they could get it, regarding it as necessary to the system. A decanter stood on every sideboard and no reaping, corn-husking, house-raising, or shooting match could be carried on, it was thought, without a liberal supply of liquor, and a change of sentiment came about only by slow degrees.

George Ewing, Jr., also kept an early tavern in a commodious log structure of which a portion is still standing on the east side of the public square. He sold out comparatively soon, however, to Joshua Brannon Huckleby, a native of Bedford County, Virginia, whose parents—~~Thomas~~ <sup>John</sup> and Frances (Brannon) Huckleby—had come from their home near the "Peaks of Otter," bringing their children into Indiana in its territorial day, breaking their long wilderness journey as did the majority of Virginia emigrants by a period of residence in Kentucky.

Born February 13, 1802, three miles east of the Blue Ridge mountains, Joshua B. Huckleby was married April 4, 1824, in Rome, to Rebecca Lang, whose father, John Lang, had been killed by the Indians during the War of 1812. Within a few years they took up their abode in the log inn, where most of their children were born and where the leading men who came to Rome within the next quarter century were entertained.

Elijah Brannon Huckleby, a younger brother, opened a general store and was engaged in merchandise for some twenty years, at times alone and again in partnership. He was born May 15, 1811, and was twice married: in 1835 to Nancy, youngest daughter of David Groves, and in 1841 to Jane, daughter of Samuel Connor.

Matthew E. Jackson opened a tavern in 1826, Levi



C. Axton a grocery and tavern the same year, and in 1827 William Hargis began selling liquor in what was then commonly spoken of as a "coffee-house." John Allen was a carpenter; Montgomery Anson (a native of Quebec, Canada, who had come to Perry County in 1819) a mason; Robert Gardner, a saddler and harness-maker; Robert S. Negus, a blacksmith; Shubael Little, a carpenter; Lanson Mallory and Moses Mallory, mill-wrights; Andrew Ackarman (who came to America from Germany in 1822), a tanner.

Other property-owners at Rome in 1826, according to a list given by Goodspeed's History of Perry, Spencer and Warrick Counties in 1885, were Ira A. Blanchard, Drusilla Claycomb, George Claycomb, Nicholas Critchlow, Catherine Donnelly, John Green, Presley Hall, Isaac Hardin, Greenberry S. Holloway, John Little, Ezra Lamb, Israel Lamb (county agent until his death in 1829, when Robert Gardner succeeded him), Edmund Jennings, Louisa Negus, Alexander Ramsey, Jacob Shoemaker, John Shoemaker, Stephen Shoemaker, John Stapleton, James Stith, Casper Stonements, David H. Stonements, Phoebe Van Winkle and Thomas Wheeler. It must be remembered that this list enumerates only such individuals as actually held lots in the town plat on record, and therefore omits many who were residents of the immediate vicinity.

The site of the first school-house in Rome is impossible to locate, although a man named Corwin is said to have taught in 1820 in a small log dwelling on Lot 89, on Market Street, which had been converted into a temporary school building. Solomon Lamb, who had taught in Troy, also engaged in the same after his removal to Rome, and Samuel Frisbie followed the teaching profession at irregular intervals between his practice of law, all the terms being arranged for by subscription for tuition.

About 1819 the Methodists organized a class, its first meetings being held at the house of Terence Connor, Sr., who was an active member, together with his



wife, John Claycomb and wife, John Allen and wife, John Jefferson Lang, the Greens, the Stapletons and other families. Preaching was held monthly, a large number of charges being embraced in what was long known in conference as "Rome Circuit," services continuing at the Connor residence until the court-house was finished, after which it was used for public worship and all meetings of importance, until a church edifice was erected some thirty years later.

The Baptists claim to have organized, also about 1819, some three miles west of Rome, the Rev. Charles Polke founding the class, as he had done that at Tobin's Point (Mount Gilead Church) a little earlier. Among the first Baptists at Rome were members of the Ricks, Lamb, Mallory, Hardin and other families, and it appears that their meetings were soon transferred to the court-house, in alternation with the Methodists.

The strongest Baptist organization in Perry County in early years was that of Gilead. At one time nearly all the residents in the south end of Tobin Township belonged to it, while on its membership roll today still appear the pioneer names of Polk, Tobin, Winchel and others representing the fifth generation of descendants from the original families.

A characteristic feature of these primitive years, now forever passed away, was "Training Day," and muster-grounds were set apart in various convenient clearings. One still remembered in Perry County was the level tract of land just west of Deer Creek, close to the Ohio River, for many years part of the Floyd Mason farm and now owned by Mrs. Robert Tobin Groves (Lena Roland). This was practically on the line between Troy and Tobin Townships and of equally convenient access to both.

The old militia system of the Northwest Territory, which Governor Harrison found in force upon his arrival at Vincennes, was by him reorganized and remained the law for Indiana Territory from December

13, 1799, until by the Territorial Legislature, December 5, 1806, it was so amended as to render it conformable to changed conditions.

Every able-bodied citizen between the ages of eighteen and forty-five (except ministers of the Gospel and Territorial officers) was required by law to enroll himself with the captain of his district company, also to provide himself with flintlock musket, bayonet, knapsack, pouch, cartridges, powder and ball. A complete division into the various ranking bodies was arranged, with full quota of officers, and semi-annual muster days were set for April and October, when the troops were supposed to be under arms for six hours, beginning with roll-call and inspection, with field-drill based upon Baron Steuben's manual of tactics.

Fines, ranging from six dollars for a private to one hundred dollars for an officer, usually ensured full attendance, though training day was too much of a neighbourhood social function for any one voluntarily to absent himself. The entire family turned out in full strength, a dinner of barbecued meats being customarily provided, with stands for the sale of gingerbread and hard cider, those delicacies of the period, and dancing on the hard ground was enjoyed to the stirring strains from pioneer fiddlers, whose music—however crude—was not devoid of a harmony peculiarly its own.

With such diversions occupying the younger element, their elders discussed topics of common interest; county, state or national affairs, and the inevitable presence of candidates, who were ubiquitous in a time when elections were held annually, brought prominently into the foreground a condition still reflected whenever Hoosiers assemble.

As the militia themselves were immune from arrest on the two days when called out for muster, the general jollification sometimes became boisterous, and the trials of strength begun in merriment occasionally de-

generated into rough-and-tumble fisticuff practise, not to say actual fights. Personal grievances or differences of long standing were often settled on training day by a hand-to-hand conflict, which nobody interfered with as long as it was fair and square, and when thus settled the grudge was forgotten equally by victor and vanquished.

Samuel Connor, of Rome, was the highest ranking officer in the county, serving as General in the militia, besides having held a Captain's commission in the War of 1812. Greenville Polk, of Tobinsport, was a Colonel, his commission reading thus:

"Jonathan Jennings, Governor and Commander in Chief of the State of Indiana, to all who shall see these presents—Greeting:

"Know ye, that from the special trust and confidence reposed in the patriotism, valour, fidelity and ability of Greenville Polk, I have commissioned and do commission him a Colonel in the 12th Regiment of the Militia of the State of Indiana; to take rank as such from the date thereof, and during good behaviour. He is, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of a Colonel. And I do strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Colonel. And he is to observe and obey such orders and instructions, from time to time, as he shall receive from his superior officers, according to the Rules and Discipline of War.

"In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and have caused to be affixed the seal of the State of Indiana, at Corydon, the 11th day of March, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, the third year of the state, and of the Independence of the United States the forty-third.

"JONATHAN JENNINGS. (Signed)

(SEAL)

"By order of the Governor, R. S. New, Secretary."

This yellow and time-stained original document is now owned by a grand-daughter of Greenville Polk, Mrs. James H. Payne (Addie Polk Miller) of Tobinsport, to whom it has descended through her mother Nancy (Polk) Miller.

## CHAPTER VII

### LAFAYETTE'S STEAMBOAT WRECK AT ROCK ISLAND

A notably unique occurrence of international history about this period, which accidentally brought into Perry County the most renowned personage who ever set foot upon her soil, was the second visit of Lafayette to America during President Monroe's second administration, in response to an official invitation from the United States, placing at his disposal a government frigate for his transportation to our shores. Free passage was eagerly proffered also by each of the different packet lines crossing the Atlantic, but all such propositions were courteously waived.

Gilbert Motier Marquis de Lafayette, the aristocratic advocate of pure democracy, consistently embarked as a private passenger on board the vessel *Cadmus*, plying between Havre and New York, where he arrived Sunday, August 5, 1824, landing at Staten Island. The elaborate reception on the following day which tendered him the freedom of the city of New York, was but the prelude to a year of triumphant ovation bestowed upon a hero around whose name clustered the romantic tradition of half a century. Of him it was said: "While Lafayette lived no one need mourn the age of chivalry as dead," and this sentiment may help us better to conceive the furore of excitement which swept over the country when Lafayette was actually once more in America.

Every one of the thirteen original Colonies was visited, and each vied with her sister States in paying honour to this supreme patriot, the invaluable friend of America, than whom none was dearer to the heart

of Washington. While there was no lack of warmth or spontaneity in the tributes of New York or New England, it remained for the nation's first capital, Philadelphia, to accord him a welcome so enthusiastically brilliant in expression that it yet stands upon record as the most marvellous demonstration ever beheld in the staid Quaker City.

Lafayette's emotion on revisiting "Mount Vernon" was profound, and we are told upon the authority of John C. Calhoun (then Secretary of War) that as the General stood reverently uncovered before the tomb of Washington a magnificent eagle poised its flight in mid-air for several seconds directly above him. At "Monticello" Thomas Jefferson came forth with tottering steps to embrace with fond affection his friend of by-gone years, and no less cordial a reception was extended by James Madison at "Montpelier."

Passing on southward through the Carolinas and Georgia, a spirited tribute was paid at Fort Mitchell in the Indian country by a number of Indians who took out the horses from his traveling carriage and drew it themselves for several miles. The vivacious French population of New Orleans spared nothing that could show honour to the illustrious dignitary who seemed to personify the felicitous unity between France and America, and a similar element attended the welcome of St. Louis. From Missouri to Tennessee was the next step in the tour planned to include each of the newer commonwealths added to the original Union, and Lafayette became at Nashville the guest of Andrew Jackson at "The Hermitage."

Messengers were sent on horseback to inform the people in advance of his coming, Lafayette himself leaving Nashville, bound for Indiana and Kentucky, early in May, 1825, on board the steamer *Mechanic*, Captain Wyllys Hall commander, accompanied by Governor Carroll, of Tennessee, and a distinguished party. Among its members were Governor Coles, of Illinois, General O'Fallon and Major Nash, of St. Louis, be-

sides other gentlemen from Missouri, returning to their homes.

The trip down the Cumberland was uneventful, along the same route taken but recently from St. Louis to Nashville. Turning upward into the Ohio, however, Lafayette was quick to perceive the rare natural beauties of its scenery, warmly commending the sentiment of his fellow-countrymen, the explorers who had so long before conferred upon the stream its title of *La Belle Rivière*. The mouth of the Wabash was passed in their journey, and a hundred miles beyond, as Perry County was reached, the channel grew narrower, the bordering hills on either side higher, the rocky cliffs wilder and more precipitous.

Four or five miles above the present site of Cannelton, then virgin forest, a jagged island juts from the river in a bend of the channel and although now guarded by a warning government light is still a menace to navigation at almost all stages of water. Steamboat piloting was then in its infancy, and it is not strange that in the darkness toward midnight of Sunday, May 9, with a heavy rain falling, the *Mechanic* struck upon the outlying ledge of Rock Island, tearing a hole in her bow, and filled so rapidly with water that she went down in little more than ten minutes.

Every one felt the shock, Lafayette being aroused with the others from slumber, and amid great excitement Captain Hall had the yawl made ready to convey his passengers to the shore. In the confusion prevailing, as he attempted to descend into the skiff, Lafayette missed his footing and was precipitated into the river and might have been drowned but for the timely assistance of one of the deckhands. Despite his advanced years the General had not lost the art of swimming acquired in his youth, so was able to keep his head above water until help arrived.

All the passengers and crew were rescued, but every article of baggage and cargo was lost. Lafayette naturally suffered some inconvenience by the wreck



and consequent loss of sundry personal belongings, including his carriage and eight thousand dollars in money; and while Captain Hall was devoting all his attention to safeguarding his passengers, his own desk, containing some thirteen hundred dollars, was lost overboard and never recovered. With characteristic philosophy, Lafayette declared himself perhaps a gainer through losing at the same time a vast quantity of unanswered letters and unacknowledged addresses.

Here were no triumphal arches, no bands of music, no carefully-conned speeches, to bid the nation's guest welcome to Indiana. Only the simple log cabin of a sturdy pioneer, James Cavender, offered shelter to the highborn nobleman who had slept under the palace-roof of Versailles, yet Hoosier hospitality gave of its best, then as today. News of the famous visitor spread like wildfire through the sparsely settled region, and sunrise after the storm found gathering a small but patriotic assemblage of farmers, their wives and children, many of whom had traveled miles on foot, over night, merely to touch the hand of him who had contributed so much toward our independent existence.

Among these was a ten-year-old lad who had walked with his parents from their home at Tobin's Point, Robert Tobin, son of Thomas and Sarah (Polk) Tobin. Fifty years later this boy had become a man of recognized mark and character in the community, representing Perry and Spencer Counties as joint Senator in the Legislatures of 1875 and 1877. The powerful impression made by Lafayette upon his childish mind, with other circumstantial details of the event, were cherished into old age by an accurate, retentive memory, and to his interesting personal recollections appreciative credit is here gratefully rendered, all his statements having been fully verified upon further research among contemporary authorities.

Troy's oft repeated claim that the wreck occurred there has been traced to the incident of the Mechanic's hull having become displaced during the flood of



1832, when it floated farther down the river, lodging a short distance above Troy, where it was visible for many years in its slow process of decay. Into this slight web of fact many threads of fancy were woven in after years by imaginative story-tellers, embellished by particulars wholly impossible to authenticate.

Very near to the Cavender cabin a never-failing spring issues from a cleft between two towering rocks, shaded then by an elm tree of primeval growth which endured into the present century. Here the courtly General received his rustic visitors. The same easy dignity of manner which had allowed him to be called the most polished gentleman in France, everywhere won for him all hearts, so his memory is kept alive and his name perpetuated in more than a few Perry County families, some of whose members were among the little throng who flocked about him in the sunshine of that spring morning.

The forenoon was spent in informal conversation, with many jests as to the discomforts of the preceding night, when only Lafayette and Governor Carroll had had the accommodation of a bed, and the boat's crew had of necessity camped out of doors, although this last was but an inconsiderable evil in the balmy May-time of Southern Indiana.

Near mid-day the smoke of a descending steamer was descried, which upon approach proved to be the *Paragon*, bound for Memphis. Being hailed and acquainted with the circumstances of the accident, however, the captain at once agreed to return to Louisville with Lafayette and his party, all of whom parted from their kindly entertainers with genuine regret. The *Paragon's* fuel supply was to have been replenished at the Troy wood-yards, so it became necessary to land again only a few miles above Rock Island to procure wood, whereupon all the citizens within call lent cheerful aid to the steamer's crew, to expedite—in ever so humble a way—the General's interrupted journey.

At two o'clock the following afternoon, Wednesday,

May 11, 1825, the boat reached Portland (Louisville) where it was met at the shore by a military escort comprising the flower of the Corncracker State, and in the evening a grand ball was given to nearly four hundred guests. Among these not the least conspicuous was Governor James Brown Ray, of Indiana, probably the most eccentric man ever elected to the highest office in the state. He was very vain, always seeking in both dress and manner to attract wondering attention, fond of impressing everybody with a sense of his singular ability and lofty position. In public places he habitually registered his name "J. Brown Ray, Governor of Indiana" as if signing an official document, so it is safe to believe that when accompanied by his full staff at the ball in Louisville's Washington Hall, he was not the least spectacular feature of the occasion.

On the next day Lafayette was taken across to Jeffersonville aboard the steamer General Pike, and grandiloquently welcomed to Indiana by Governor Ray, although rain prevented his attending a large barbecue which had been arranged in his honour. With the further incidents of his stay in America Perry County had no part, and Indiana but little, save that one of her counties, organized 1834, the year of his death, and its county seat commemorate the title of his French chateau, La Grange, still occupied by his descendants, and a shrine much visited by Americans abroad.

Until the floods of the eighties the little log cabin had bravely weathered six decades of storm and sunshine, but is now only a memory, though the bubbling spring still pours forth its refreshing waters beside the winding turnpike road from Cannelton to Deer Creek.

A contemporary heirloom preserved in one of Cannelton's oldest homes is a quaint cream jug in "old blue" china, having an established catalogue value among collectors as the "Lafayette Pattern," and now used by the third generation in descent from its orig-

inal owners, Joshua B. and Rebecca (Lang) Huckleby, who were married at Rome in the year of its manufacture, 1824. A picture of Lafayette's vessel landing at Castle Garden, New York, with the Battery guns belching forth a fiery salute, appears on the sides of the pitcher, the front showing a medallion inscription. The ware is much sought by china connoisseurs for its historic design no less than its rarity, as specimens are now seldom seen outside of art museums or prize cabinets.

Lafayette's love for America lasted with his life. Not only was his only son called George Washington, but Virginia and Carolina were names chosen for his daughters. Returning to his native land to die, it was yet his wish to repose in American soil, hence, at his request, when he bade a last farewell to these United States, the frigate Brandywine which bore him away carried also a hogshead of earth from the summit of Bunker Hill. It was taken from the very spot where General Warren fell, so the same ground which drank the blood of Warren surrounds today the ashes of another patriot-soldier, no less gallant, whose life was happily spared for a longer career of usefulness and bravery.

## CHAPTER VIII

### LINCOLN FAMILY IN PERRY COUNTY.

SO MUCH concerning Abraham Lincoln's boyhood connection with the vicinity of Troy has been told and published that no historian of Perry County would dare omit some reference thereto, yet a regard for accuracy forbids the claim of authenticity to the greater number of

"these legends and traditions,"

so that only a few of the simplest facts, which have been indubitably verified, will here be given space.

As all the world knows today, Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in LaRue County, Kentucky, near the village of Hodgenville, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln being his parents. While the Lincoln family came of worthy stock in Rockcastle County, Virginia,—tracing their direct descent through "Mordecai Lincoln, Gentleman" (whose will was recorded, 1735, in the Register's Office at Philadelphia) to that Samuel Lincoln, of Norwich, England, his father, the first of the line in America—no nation's hero ever made his advent under more unpromising circumstances of adversity than Abraham Lincoln.

Of all his biographers none can be considered to out-rank John Hay and James G. Nicolay, and their joint work speaks with an authority which can not be questioned. In its pages we are told that "by the time the boy Abraham had attained his seventeenth year the social conditions of Kentucky had changed considerably from the early pioneer days. Life had assumed a more settled and orderly course, the old barbarous equality of the earlier times was gone; a distinction

of classes began to be seen, those who held slaves assuming a distinct social superiority over those who did not.

"Thomas Lincoln, concluding that Kentucky was no country for a poor man, determined to seek his fortune in Indiana. He had heard of rich, unoccupied lands in Perry County in that state, and thither he determined to go. He built a rude raft, loaded it with his kit of tools, and four hundred gallons of whiskey, and trusted his fortunes to the winding water-courses. He met with only one accident on the way; his raft capsized in the Ohio River, but he fished up his tool-kit and most of the ardent spirits and arrived safely at the house of a settler named Posey, with whom he left his odd assortment of household goods for the wilderness, while he started on foot to look for a home in the dense forest."

This "settler named Posey" was, in all probability, the same Francis Posey listed among Perry County's taxpayers in 1815, living at or near Troy, then the only settlement along the Indiana shore of the river below New Albany, and the county seat as well.

Messrs. Hay and Nicolay go on by telling us that "He selected a spot which pleased him in his first day's journey," and the vigorous frontiersman, such as Thomas Lincoln was, would think nothing of sixteen miles' walk between sunrise and sunset, that being the distance from Troy to the tract of land which he entered the following year.

We are told further that "he then walked back to Knob Creek (Kentucky) and brought on his family to their new home. No humbler cavalcade ever invaded the Indian timber. Besides his wife and two children his earthly possessions were of the slightest, for the backs of two borrowed horses sufficed for the load. Insufficient clothing and bedding, a few pans and kettles were their sole movable wealth. They relied on Lincoln's kit of tools for their furniture and on his rifle for their food. At Posey's they hired a wagon,

and literally hewed a path through the wilderness to their new habitation, near Little Pigeon Creek, a mile and a half east of Gentryville, in a rich and fertile forest country."

While Messrs. Hay and Nicolay give no exact date for this removal, their general description tallies closely with the recorded fact that on October 15, 1817, Thomas Lincoln made entry of a tract of land upon which he had squatted a few months before, a part of Section 32, Township 4 South; Range 5 West. At the time it was included in Hurricane Township, Perry County, but now belongs to Carter Township, Spencer County, and is embraced within the plat of Lincoln City, laid out in 1874, by Henry Lewis, of Cincinnati, at the building of the first railroad through Spencer County.

Thus, while the Lincoln family became residents of Indiana first as citizens of Perry County, they remained such less than a twelvemonth; that is, until the separation of Spencer County by legislative enactment of January 20, 1818, so the further incidents of their sojourn in the State belong properly to historians of Spencer County, not Perry.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln died, however, on October 5, 1818, and was buried upon a spot which is now maintained at state expense as a beautiful memorial park, along one side of which runs the Cannelton Branch of the Southern Railway, so Perry County has no chance to forget her as one of its pioneer women.

Abraham Lincoln's tribute acknowledging his indebtedness to his "angel mother" pays her appropriate honour, yet a word of praise, likewise, is due his step-mother, Sarah (Bush) Johnson, whom Thomas Lincoln married within a year after being left a widower. She filled a mother's place to Nancy Hanks Lincoln's two children, generously sharing with them the additional resources she had brought into their home from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and giving them advantages

for the scanty educational opportunities which were the best the neighborhood afforded.

Thomas Lincoln appears, however, to have been of a roving disposition, always ready to move, and in 1830 he disposed of his encumbered acres to Mr. Gentry, sold his crop of corn and hogs, and packing his family with their household goods into a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, left Indiana forever, emigrating into the newer state of Illinois, with which the Lincoln name was thereafter permanently identified.

Thirteen years of boyhood and young manhood were the limits of Abraham Lincoln's residence in the vicinity of Perry County, and many of the incidents related of him by the elder generation had a substantial basis of fact, sufficient for their acceptance as truth, although unrecorded by his serious biographers. Others were highly apochryphal, some contradictory and even patently impossible from the point of time.

All describe him correctly as large and awkward in frame, doing the "general utility" work which fell to the lot of pioneer boys in his day, chopping wood, feeding cattle and hogs, and driving them to the river for slaughter, to be salted down and shipped South by flat-boat. The mouth of Anderson River was a frequent harbour for craft of this kind, and large packing houses were conducted there by James Taylor, of Troy. The Lincoln family and neighbours would naturally dispose of their produce at the nearest point accessible, hence Abraham himself was frequently in the village of Troy, and even attended school there for a short time.

No bridge spanned Anderson River, then officially classified as a 'navigable' stream, all crossing having to be done by skiff, and Lincoln's remarkable physical strength may have led him to 'hire out' for awhile as ferryman. Hay and Nicolay write of him that he felt too large for the life of a farm hand, and his thoughts—after the manner of restless Hoosier lads who were his contemporaries—turning naturally to the river as



an avenue of escape from the forest, he asked an old friend to give him a recommendation to some steam-boat man on the Ohio. But on being reminded that the right to dispose of his time was yet vested in his father for another year or so, he conscientiously desisted from the purpose.

The same reliable authorities tell us that in 1828 an offer was made to him by Mr. Gentry to accompany the latter's son, Allen Gentry, with a flat-boat of produce to New Orleans and return. Gladly was the opportunity embraced for a glimpse of the world such as the long voyage afforded. This is the only river trip mentioned by Hay and Nicolay, and as the start was undoubtedly made from Troy, it was most likely in connection with other vessels controlled by James Taylor and Troy citizens, since the flat-boats commonly journeyed in fleets for mutual assistance and protection.

A well-written account of Lincoln's having been once arrested in Kentucky opposite Troy and tried before a Hancock County magistrate for ferrying without license, in violation of privileges held by others, was printed in 1913, with some effective illustrations and interesting circumstantial detail, including a mythical love affair with a certain damsel (a picture of whose grave was shown) from whom he gallantly withdrew as a wooer upon learning that she was the betrothed of another.

Lincoln's straightforwardness in the simple pleading of his own cause was said to have obtained his prompt release by Esquire Pate, who gave him good advice toward further legal study. Altogether a romantic narrative, and not without some ground, one may readily believe, although it had probably lost nothing in being handed down through more than sixty years.

Of the love-affair, a story had been published, some fifteen years earlier, which bore strong points of resemblance, except that the maiden's name was wholly



different and her suitor had less faith in the sincerity of Lincoln's withdrawal from the field, engaging him in personal conflict in a corn-crib whence Lincoln emerged with a scar above one ear which he bore to his grave.

Summing up everything, therefore, a conclusion is reached whose expression may be couched in phraseology borrowed from the subject himself:—in other words, *some* of the incidents related of Abraham Lincoln as occurring at Troy might have been true, but *all* could not have been true.

## CHAPTER IX.

### EARLY RESIDENTS, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—DERBY.

IN THE same year of Lafayette's visit to America a young man of twenty-seven or twenty-eight who came into Perry County bore the name John Mason, a scion of the distinguished Virginia family, collaterally descended from the Colonial statesman, George Mason, author of the famous Bill of Rights, whose estate in Fairfax County overlooking the Potomac, "Gunston Hall," was adjacent to "Mount Vernon."

John Mason's first venture into Indiana had been into Pike County, but foreseeing a career of advancement for the Ohio River counties he sought a home in Perry County, establishing himself in Troy Township, Section 16, Township 6, South, Range 3, West. There, some two or three years later, he married Mrs. Sarah (Elkins) Webb, a native of Maine, the widow of Asa Webb. Of their seven children the eldest, William Floyd Mason, was the first-born child within the limits which afterwards became the city of Cannelton, his birth occurring January 21, 1830.

A few other scattered families were neighbours, as country people reckon such distances, the names of Cavender, Hoskinson, Holman and Wentworth being represented, but among them John Mason's vigorous personality made him distinctively foremost. He was energetic in his farming operations and—added to a disposition of singular kindheartedness and benevolence—possessed keen penetration and sound forethought which made him judicious while venturesome.

Coal as a steam-producer was brought to the notice of steamboat engineers by him among the first, and he was one of the earliest shippers introducing coal as

a fuel in the city of New Orleans. While the commercial development of the region about his home became a little later the work of others, it must not be overlooked that his scrupulous honour in the payment of security debts thrown upon him had for a time severely cramped his financial status, and a just chronicle may not deny the credit which others have failed to pay John Mason as the true pioneer in recognizing the vast material resources latent in the rock-ribbed hills of Perry County.

That old-time conservatism yet existed in the 'twenties along the Ohio River, especially upon its southern bank, is quaintly attested by a grand jury indictment brought in 1827 for what is believed to have been the only genuine duel ever fought in Perry County, reading:

"State of Indiana, Perry County—ss:

In the Perry Circuit Court, in the term of September, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven.

The Grand Jurors empanelled and sworn to enquire for the State of Indiana and the body of the County of Perry, present that Daniel Stephens, late of Tobin Township in the County of Perry and State of Indiana, Gentleman, on the fourteenth day of August, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, with force and arms, at said township in said County and State aforesaid, did fight a duel with a rifle loaded with gunpowder and ball, with one Stanley Singleton, by then and there shooting and discharging said rifle, loaded as aforesaid, at said Stanley Singleton, contrary to the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

Charles I. Battell, Attorney, Prosecutor for 4th Indiana Circuit."

A corresponding indictment was returned against Stanley Singleton, and the cases remained for several terms upon the docket before finally *nollied*, as the

duellists were outside the State and, without extradition papers, could not be haled before an Indiana court.

Both men were Kentuckians, and Daniel Stephens, an extensive landowner in Breckinridge County, just opposite the mouth of Bear Creek, adjacent to the present stations of Holt and Addison on the Louisville, Henderson & St. Louis Railway. The land was a portion of that entered by his father, Captain Richard Stephens, of Virginia, as a Revolutionary grant, and Singleton was a neighbour and personal friend. A violent quarrel, however, had arisen over political differences, so that a challenge was sent and accepted, the challenged party selecting the pioneer's weapon—the rifle—for the conflict. In order to evade Kentucky law the two men, in company with their seconds, and possibly a doctor or one or two servants, crossed the river into Tobin Township and exchanged two shots apiece. Singleton escaped with only a shot through the lobe of his ear, but at the second discharge Stephens received a severe wound in the hip, from which—after a tedious recovery—he suffered during the remainder of his life. The friendship between the men was cordially resumed, just as if there had been no duel.

One year later was held the first trial for murder,—the State of Indiana *vs.* William Rockwell for killing William Pitman. On May 12, 1828, the two men were in a skiff on the river and became involved in an altercation, during which Rothwell struck Pitman on the back of the head with an iron implement called a 'sheep's foot,' (a metal bar formed into a hammer head at one end and a claw at the other,) fracturing his skull and causing his death after a few days.

An indictment was found against Rothwell, followed by his arrest and trial at the September term. Samuel Frisbie was attorney for his defense, with Charles I. Battell as prosecutor, and Aaron Cunningham foreman of the jury. 'Guilty,' was the verdict returned, whereupon defendant's attorney filed a plea for a new trial on the ground of no jurisdiction, which was

allowed by Judge Goodlett, it being construed at that time that Kentucky alone had jurisdiction over crimes committed on the Ohio River along Indiana borders. The prisoner was therefore delivered to the authorities of Breckinridge County, but on the eve of his trial at Hardinsburg a change of venue was taken to the county of Hancock, just organized, and Rothwell succeeded in escaping from the primitive Hawesville jail and was never recaptured.

Samuel Frisbie was appointed Probate Judge in 1829, holding the office until elected senator the following year when James Reily became his successor, Stephen Shoemaker following Robert Gardner as County Agent, also in 1830. In September, 1831, the county business was placed in the hands of three commissioners, John Bristow, Hart Humphrey and Safford Haskell. They divided the county into forty-one road districts, naming the hands of each, or such able-bodied citizens as were required to give two days' manual labour on the roads. For example: John Frakes was appointed supervisor of the Vincennes Road, "from Oil Creek to Smith's Sugar Camp," with Thomas Sprinkle, Abishai Dodson, Samuel Ewing and Graham Ewing as his assistants.

Much gerrymandering of road districts appears to have been indulged in, and an idea of road surveying at that period may be gleaned from a description placed on record in 1828 by Samuel Connor and Thomas Wheeler, who had been appointed 'to view a road from Tobin's Ferry to Rome.' It reads:

"Proceeding up the Ohio River until coming to the upper line of the widow Rebecca Weatherholt's Plantation;—thence leaving the bank of the river, on the line of said plantation until crossing the principal slash;—from there bearing to the right on a small ridge as marked, until Abraham Finch's corner;—thence following the old Rome road to a blazed way formerly agreed on by George Tobin and Charley Polke until it intersects the Rome road;—thence following

the Rome road as formerly opened to the blazes formerly made by Richard Polke and brothers;—and following said blazes with some alterations made by them to Buck's Run;—thence up said run 59 or 80 yards to a log across the run where the marking again commences; crossing the run and proceeding near the corner of Henry Miller's oat-field;—where following said blazes to the Troy road to Rome."

The taxes for 1830 were fixed at a session of the board as 'the same as last year except horses 50 cents each and oxen 25 cents,' a reduction, as shown by the 1829 levy, quoted in full, and reading:

First rate land,	87½ cents per acre
Second rate land,	75 cents per acre
Third rate land,	62½ cents per acre
Horses and mules-----	\$ .56¼ each
Oxen -----	.31¼ each
Gold watches -----	1.00 each
Silver or pinchbeck watches	.31¼ each
Town lots -----	1.00 each

Ferry licenses were variously rated: Samuel Connor's, \$9. James McDaniels', \$4. Edmond Jennings', \$4. James Tobin's, \$3. Peter Barber's, \$1. All store-boats were taxed at one dollar per month and no license was to be issued for less than one month. Resident merchants were also taxed, it appears, as Uriah Cummings paid \$10 for the privilege of keeping store one year.

For a short period about this time the southern extremity of Tobin Township, or such portion of it as coincided with Congressional Township 7, South, existed under the name of Athens Township. Whether such title was bestowed as a further tribute to the ancient classics already twice honoured in the county, or because the residents considered themselves as veritable Athenians in culture and the desire for "some new thing," the present generation can never hope to know.

At the March, 1832, term of court three new attor-

neys were admitted, Lyman Leslie, Eben D. Edson (afterward prosecutor, in 1835,) and George Burton Thompson, a member of that Kentucky family to which Congressman Phil Thompson, of the Harrodsburg district, belonged. George B. Thompson was elected joint-senator in 1833, and representative in 1845.

It is said that Rome was first incorporated by a special act of the Legislature which Doctor Thompson's efforts carried through while in the upper house, and a curious recognition of the equal franchise issue occurred in the provisions of the bill, which extended the suffrage privilege within the corporate limits to women who were property owners. Goodspeed's History of Perry, Spencer and Warrick Counties (1885) asserts that this was done in order to secure as heavy a vote as possible against the granting of liquor licenses, but when the test came, the result was not what the temperance advocates had reckoned upon, and the town corporation lapsed after but a few years of existence.

Three changes on the judicial bench occurred during the decade of the 'thirties, Judge Goodlett after serving twelve years being followed by Samuel Hall who, at the September term, 1832, presented a commission signed by Noah Noble, Governor. His sound interpretation of the law is attested by the fact that very few of his decisions in the Fourth Circuit were reversed by the Supreme Court. He was accurate, deliberate and dispassionate; popular with his court as a good reader of human nature.

Charles I. Battell succeeded him in 1835, filling the position only one year. Possessing more grace in oratory than Judge Hall, he was yet unequal to him in hard common sense. Plodding studiously through ancient authorities had no attraction for Judge Battell, who aptly acquired legal lore through practice. He was a better attorney than judge, and still more a pleader rather than counsellor.

Elisha Embree, of Evansville, appointed in April, 1836, to the judgeship which he held for ten years, was



the superior of either Hall or Battell, and a man above the average in all branches of his profession. He is described as reliable, skillful, adroit, fluent, and not easily confused by any depth of conflicting testimony or argument; qualifications which made him later a valuable public servant in the higher position he was called to occupy, Representative for the First Congressional District.

Most of the development of Perry County thus far traced has been of occurrences immediately adjacent to the Ohio River, but it must not be assumed thereby that the northeastern region was without settlers, or that a more detailed individual mention of them has been intentionally omitted.

Into the extreme northern end of Tobin Township had come Thomas Cummings from Virginia as early as 1807, and inside the next three years he was followed by his son, Uriah Cummings who, on his way to Indiana, had married in Kentucky, Sarah Lanman, like himself a native of the Old Dominion. They located upon land which the father had entered, and became the parents of four sons and seven daughters, so that their descendants are numerous and found in other townships as well as on the original homestead, the name of Uriah having been handed down through each generation to the present.

From 1815 to 1829 Uriah Cummings I operated a saw- and grist-mill on Poison Creek, afterward conducting a store in a building on his farm until he died, July 30, 1831. His donation, in 1816, of forty acres, had secured the location of the court house at Rome, but the condition attaching thereto, (providing for reversion to his heirs in case Rome ceased to be the county seat,) was disregarded when the county offices were moved, in 1859, to Cannelton, and through some technicality the claim of the Cummings heirs to the property was defeated.

Another early mill was run by the natural water-power of Poison Creek at a point some three miles



from the river, above the old State Road. While its date of origin could not be definitely ascertained, it was known as the Waterbury Mill prior to 1850, and the locality was of sufficient importance to be indicated as "Waterbury" upon a state map in Colton's Atlas of that period. Samuel Burton was one of its proprietors, and the families of Anson, Bryant, Carr and Glenn were among those who lived near.

John Hargis, who had come from Kentucky with his wife, Nancy Allen, among the pioneers, was unfortunate in losing the land he had entered in Section 13, owing to an accidentally erroneous description of its location, only discovered and taken advantage of by other parties after he had made considerable improvement of the property.

He bought other land near by and for several years operated a large horse-mill, the power whereof was conducted by a band of raw bull's-hide, with the hair still on, cut out in a circle beginning at the centre of the hide. This business was so profitably managed that he was the owner of a half-section (320 acres) of land at his death, October 17, 1838. His widow survived him forty years, dying at an advanced age in June, 1878. Their descendants through twelve children are of great number, scattered through many states, besides represented in the old neighbourhood and connected by marriage with numerous Perry County families.

William Mitchell founded the third town in Perry County, on Section 33, Township 5, South, Range 2, West, which he had taken up in 1818, after coming from Virginia through Kentucky, with his wife, Mary Bruner, and their several children. On November 4, 1835, John Cassidy, then conducting a store at the mouth of Oil Creek (but who had been County Surveyor in 1819) laid out for William Mitchell a town-site comprising 21 lots 90 by 60 feet in dimensions, with a 50-foot street (Water Street) along the river front, and Second Street, parallel therewith, 33 feet wide, one

square back. These were intersected at right angles by three alleys, 16½ feet in width.

Of this plat, however, the encroaching river has devoured so much that one can scarcely recognize today the original plan as recorded December 4, 1835, on Page 18, of Deed Book B, by Samuel Frisbie, Recorder, per Joshua B. Huckleby, deputy. It has always been told that Samuel Frisbie was the town's sponsor, choosing its name to honour the Old World home of his ancestors.

Almost directly after the first house was built in Derby, William Mitchell erected a distillery on (and partially in) the hillside. When in operation its daily output was between twenty and thirty gallons of whiskey and brandy, for which a ready local market was found at a price far from prohibitive, twelve-and-a-half cents, or "a bit," per gallon.

After some twelve years the building was turned into the first chair-factory in Perry County and used as such for several years by Jesse Inman. He employed three or four other men, each of whom turned out a dozen chairs as a daily average, the work being performed entirely by hand.

School in the vicinity was first taught in a private house by John Stephens, shortly followed by the erection of a small log school house in a neighbourhood, in which Jesse Inman taught several terms. It was very inconveniently located for the majority of those who should have been its patrons, the notion seeming to have long prevailed among the pioneers that a school house should be situated outside the villages and in the woods remote from any public highway whose passing traffic might possibly disturb the pupils. This idea is borne out by the location of many other early school houses in the county, and, also, obtained to some extent in fixing sites for certain of the churches.

There was no early church in Derby itself, the nearest being some few miles south on the Rome road, Union Universalist Church, built in 1835-36. This congregation was founded by the Rev. E. B. Mann, its first

pastor, and during early years ranked as one of the strongest organizations of that belief in Indiana, many of its membership—which is stated to have included representatives of the Connor, Cummings, Ewing, Groves, Humphrey, Hyde, Simons and Tate families—coming some distance from other parts of the county to attend service, or ‘preaching’ as the term was then in vogue. During the ‘forties, Roman Catholic missionary work was begun by the Rev. Augustus Bessonies, who organized St. Mary’s congregation and built the church which still stands as the only religious edifice in Derby.

Oil Township’s first teacher is said to have been James Reily, a man of exceptionally good education for his time, who had located there in 1817, but it is not definitely known just where he taught, nor where the first religious worship was conducted. Probably both were held in private homes. Reily also taught a night session, known as a ‘grammar school,’ at which many adult pupils attended. Among his patrons of different ages were members of the Deen, Esarey, Ewing, Falkenborough, Frakes, Walker and Willett families.

Robert Walker and Delilah (Phillips) Walker were notably active pioneer Methodists, and a prominent circuit-rider of the period was the Rev. John Hughes, who had fought gallantly in the Indian wars, and later served his widespread flock as a pious shepherd until seventy-five years of age. Walls and Seaton were the names of other early preachers of the Gospel.

The Ewings (John and Eleanor) and the Jamisons (Samuel and Catherine) were of the old-school Presbyterian belief, but no preacher or church organization of that faith can be noted until about 1838. At a date which some give as 1817 a combined school house and church edifice, 20 by 24 feet in size, was built of logs, half a mile east of where Branchville now stands, and in it—the earliest of its kind recorded in Oil Township—societies were organized by the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists.

Irregular meetings were held in the late 'thirties among the numerous German families who had come into the central portion of Tobin Township, and the name "German Ridge" came to designate the hill-district in which they formed a colony. Its postoffice is now 'German,' the termination 'Ridge' having been dropped by the government at a time when all such names were abridged by the Postal Department.

Preaching in their own language was naturally wished by the pious farmers from Prussia, Wurttemberg and the Rhenish provinces, so about 1838 a German Methodist class was regularly organized, the leading families being those of Mueller, Plock, Klein, Werner, Schank and Ackarman. For its first years the class was in a wide circuit served semi-occasionally from Boonville, but was later a part of the "Huntingburg Mission," which comprised, besides work in Dubois County, the field of Perry County also, including the German Methodists on the Ridge, at Oil Creek and—somewhat later—at Cannelton.

Their first pastor was the Rev. Conrad Muth, and under his charge a log cabin was built, about three miles from Rome, on a hill above Bear Creek, and giving a glimpse of the distant Ohio River. This church was followed about 1873 by a frame building in use by the congregation.

## CHAPTER X.

### MINING DEVELOPMENTS OF COAL HAVEN AND CANNELTON

AS MANY of the pioneer settlers came into Indiana through Kentucky, so may an interesting parallel be drawn in observing that the earliest awakening to the real possibilities of the site which is now Cannelton came through Hawesville, on the opposite side of the river; although coal mining on a small scale had been conducted among the hills of Troy Township by John Mason for several years before his efforts brought it to the serious notice of outside capitalists as affording favourable opportunities for profitable investment.

Some time during the summer of 1835, General Seth Hunt, of Walpole, New Hampshire, a wealthy Eastern gentleman, who was passing up the Ohio River, observed while landing at Hawesville a heap of bituminous coal which, he learned upon enquiry, had been mined in Hancock County, near that village. With characteristic Yankee energy he delayed his journey long enough to lease from Mrs. Rebecca (Sterett) Lander a tract of land on the ancestral estate inherited from her father, the late Captain John Sterett, then proceeded home, where he immediately interested other New England men of means in the natural but undeveloped resources of a region which he regarded as most promising.

Samuel J. Gardner, of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and James T. Hobart, of Boston, joined him in raising some \$10,000, with which he returned to the Middle West, purchased from Mr. Cooper a tract of coal land also near Hawesville, contracted for other lands at a price of about \$50,000, to be paid for within a few months,

employed hands and began mining. He sent to New Orleans many flatboat loads of coal, many of which encountered the misfortune of sinking on the way. Other cargoes, while sold at high prices, were never realized upon, General Hunt's agents decamping with the proceeds. The building of a saw-mill, at a cost of \$10,000 proved a partial loss, and the purchase of a small steamboat was no more of a pecuniary success. The vessel met with countless mishaps, at length running aground upon a sandbar where it remained all summer, or until, in a fit of temper tried beyond endurance, General Hunt tore the boat to pieces as the ultimate cause of his financial disaster.

James T. Hobart had come in the meantime to this region, and after a thorough inspection, concluded that facilities for the production of coal were better on the Indiana side, so commenced preparations for work in Perry County. In the name of Gardner and Hobart, on October 30, 1836, he bought from Alney McLean and Tabitha McLean, his wife, three hundred and forty acres, lying in Sections 15 and 16, Township 7, South, Range 3, West, for \$600. Part of the tract is within the present city limits of Cannelton, the corporation line following for some distance the north and south line between the two sections described.

During the next twelve months he appears to have procured the backing of additional Eastern capital, as, by an Act of the General Assembly of Indiana, on December 23, 1837, the American Cannel Coal Company came into existence, with a capital stock of \$300,000, with liberty to increase the same to \$500,000, should the company's business require it. James T. Hobart, Seth Hunt, Elijah Livermore, J. B. Russell, John D. W. Williams and their associates, successors and assigns, were named as incorporators, the object of the company being set forth as: "to mine stone coal at Coal Haven, Perry County, Indiana, and elsewhere; to mine iron and other minerals; to manufacture iron, copperas and lumber; to build steam- and flat-boats for the

transportation of coal, iron, lumber and other products; and to build mills, furnaces, forges, etc."

In 1837 the company purchased from Gardner and Hobart, John D. W. Williams, Nicholas Hawley and others, 3,740 acres; from James Cavender, early in the next year, 330 acres; afterward 320 acres from Elijah Livermore; and later 930 acres from other parties. By additional smaller purchases from time to time, the grand total amounted to 6,456 acres. In lapse of years, much of this naturally changed hands, (the company in every instance of sale retaining full mineral rights, with privilege of approach,) so that their acreage is now but a fraction of what it once was.

General Hunt, in 1839, exchanged his holdings in the company for the exclusive right to work the copperas interest of the mines, entering energetically into the new venture with all his remaining means. He erected costly apparatus on the hillside, near the head of the stream which for many years flowed down Washington Street in Cannelton, sending to New York for a cement that was warranted to resist the action of copperas water. It took him about a year to complete his copperas factory, and meanwhile he perfected arrangements to manufacture quercitron bark from the chestnut oak, of which he made a small quantity. At the first trial his guaranteed cement utterly refused to perform its promises, other important details were a complete failure, and General Hunt, reduced to his last dollar and much broken in zeal, went back East to return no more. In 1846 he was found dead in his chair at Walpole, leaving to his heirs only the exclusive right to manufacture copperas at Cannelton, a privilege still vested but never claimed.

Extensive operations were planned by the general agent, James T. Hobart, who began by laying off and fencing small tracts of arable land on which were erected rude log houses to be rented by miners, lumbermen and labourers, so that within a few months the population of Coal Haven comprised a dozen families.



Several mines were opened, the principal one being in the hill to the rear of where now stands the parochial school house built in 1915 for the Benedictine Sisters connected with St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

From this a tram-way, designed by John Mason, led in a westerly direction to the river bank at a point now occupied by the Southern Railway station, and along its rails the coal was conveyed in crude cars, or carts, to a tip from which it was dumped upon a large floating platform. Here a large painted sign called attention of passing steamboats to the new fuel, lauding its cheapness and extolling its merits as a steam producer. The first quantities taken on trial were small, and increased but slowly, though steadily; yet for some years the sale of wood was also maintained, being kept cut and corded on the shore, as most of the boats still used it. Near the head of what is now Taylor Street, besides near Sulphur Spring, other mines were opened, from which coal was hauled in wagons to the wharf.

Two saw-mills were started; one below the coal-slide, the other above, nearer the north bank of Casselberry Creek, at a point now the corner of Taylor Street and occupied by a tennis-court of velvet turf in the private grounds of E. Curtis Clark. A brick yard was also started by the company, but was shortly abandoned, a small grist-mill proving more successful.

Late in 1838 a large frame hotel was erected and leased to John Wentworth, the earliest boniface of the settlement, though his career as such was brief. Some time during the autumn of 1839 a fire broke out, against which there was no protection, so that hotel, stores, mills and residences were practically all swept away. Only the copperas factory which General Hunt had just deserted, escaped, its buildings, vats, troughs, etc., remaining until blown down by a high wind at a date some twelve years afterward.

General Hunt's departure was so quickly followed by the fire and the exodus of workmen whom it rendered homeless, that Coal Haven's annihilation seemed



certain. The financial losses of the company had crippled their enthusiasm, and the spring of 1840 found weeds starting a rank growth in the deserted village. But four families continued to reside in its vicinity,—John Mason, James Cavender, James Hoskinson, John Wentworth,—and of these the first three had been residents prior to the company.

To the Hon. Francis Yates Carlile, of New Orleans, who arrived during the early summer of 1840, is due the renaissance of Coal Haven, and his descendants may justly claim for him the distinction of having been the real founder of Cannelton, since his was the executive ability which placed upon an ultimately permanent basis the community which today exists as an enduring monument to his energy.

He was born about 1812 in Providence, Rhode Island, the son of William and Sarah (Yates) Carlile, both of whom died in his infancy, so he was reared by his maternal grandfather, Esquire Yates, of Salem, Massachusetts, who gave him the advantage of an education at Harvard. His great-grandfather, Thomas Carlile, had come from Scotland in the Eighteenth Century, and was a sterling patriot, appointed in 1777 as Captain of an Artillery Company in Providence, and re-appointed in 1780.

After entering upon mining operations in Indiana Francis Y. Carlile habitually spent his winters in New Orleans, engaged in real estate, forwarding and commission business, meanwhile doing much in the field of journalism, a profession which he later followed, after leaving Cannelton, for several years in Evansville and Memphis, where he died February 16, 1866.

For thirty-five years he was survived by his widow, to whom he had been married, September, 1851, in New Orleans, Anna Louise Howard, of Matagorda, Texas, a daughter of Charles and Anna Walden (Blount) Howard, formerly of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Mrs. Howard was the granddaughter of Jacob Walden, who was on board the Ranger with

John Paul Jones and was by his side during his battle with the Drake. He also piloted Washington's army across the Delaware, and in Trumbull's celebrated painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware," Jacob Walden's is the figure next to that of Washington.

A gifted woman, intellectually her husband's peer, coming as a bride to join him in establishing their residence beside the Ohio River at the edge of the village he had created, Mrs. Carlile made "Elm Park" the earliest notably individual home in Cannelton. Three children were born to them—Francis Howard, Grace Lee (Mrs. Bolton-Smith) and Nathaniel Endicott, the two elder surviving as residents of Memphis.

An old print of the estate shows the mansion to have combined the characteristic Southern feature of a wide gallery surrounding the lower floor with many gables in the upper story, while the carriage-drive and ornamental planting bespeak a studied attention to landscape gardening, then everywhere in its infancy, though with the famous Downing as its American foster-father.

Some few of the old cedars outlived the dwelling itself, which was destroyed by fire during the 'seventies, after passing through several changes of ownership. A singular fatality has seemed thenceforward to overhang the place, three other houses on the site having been burned in succession, so the spot is now untenanted, its gardens a mere field, though a part of its osage orange hedge has grown to tree-like proportions.

February 27, 1841, Joseph B. Ball, then county surveyor by appointment, laid out a new town plat by order of the American Cannel Coal Company, 266 lots in all, comprising the central portion of the present city of Cannelton, in which have since been made only a few changes, such as widening the 16-foot alleys to 20 feet. It was thought that a new title might dispel the ill-luck of early Coal Haven, so from among Cannelsburg, Cannelton, Hobartsville, Huntsville and others

suggested, the choice fell upon the first name, although Mr. Carlile's preference was for Cannelton and its use soon became general, so when a second survey was made, in 1844, on a larger scale, the name officially adopted was "Cannelton." This plat was recorded by Frederick Connor, of Troy, a grandson of Terence Connor, of Rome, and a cousin of Elias Rector, the pioneer surveyor under whom he had served the apprenticeship of his profession.

In 1843 James Boyd, a Scotch-Irishman of Boston, who had just become a stockholder in the company, erected a large store building on the river-front close to the north bank of Casselberry Creek, and somewhat later built his residence in the block below, between Taylor and Washington Streets; a long, low structure which stood until the early 'seventies, shaded by a picturesque weeping willow tree harmonizing with its cottage type of architecture. This house is shown in a lithographic view of Cannelton, of which only one copy is known to exist, reproduced from a pencil drawing made about 1850-52, from the cliff back of Hawesville by a Louisville artist whose name is not preserved, although Captain Joseph W. Carlton, of Hawesville, who was a lad with him when he made the sketch, recalled the circumstance with perfect distinctness sixty years later.

The burning of Boyd's store by incendiarism led to an indictment for arson against William Ritchey, who was brought for trial before Judge Embree in Rome at the May term of court, 1844, James Lockhart as prosecutor represented the state, Samuel Ingle, of Evansville, appearing for the defendant, who received a two-year sentence upon conviction. An appeal to the Supreme Court was taken by Ingle, on the ground that no value of the store burned had been alleged in the declaration. A reversal of decision was handed down, followed by a re-indictment and a second trial which resulted in Ritchey's acquittal.

Close to the former site, or at the south-east corner

of Taylor and Front Streets, another store was erected, of such durable material as to be practically fire-proof, its massive rock walls and slate roof—with the inscription “Built by James Boyd, 1844” deeply carved into the stone lintel of the central doorway—remaining a landmark along the river-front for three-score years, or long after its disuse as a business house. In 1904 the Cannelton Flouring Mills put up their modern four-story manufacturing edifice on the Boyd corner and a portion of the original stonework is now comprised in the walls of their boiler room.

It is told that early religious worship was held in the Boyd building by the Methodist class which the Rev. Othniel A. Barnett had organized about 1838, with some twelve or fifteen members, among whom were William Knights and Lydia (Webb) Knights, Thomas Bristow and his sister-in-law, “Aunt Barbara” (Blocher) Mason, (whose first husband had been a Bristow,) long remembered as a most vigorous class-leader; and Israel Lake and wife, at whose home in the river road the first services were conducted, before the log school house was used for meetings.

This school house stood near the first cemetery, close to the banks of Casselberry Creek as its course then ran, a few graves still remaining in the long neglected burying ground. The selection of such locality was decided, beyond question, by the fact that it was in fractional Section 16, which the law then arbitrarily set aside for school purposes, without the slightest regard for practical considerations of convenience. No names of the pioneer teachers have been preserved, and the schools had so little patronage from the miners as scarcely to deserve the title. James Boyd, by his personal effort and influence, did more than any other toward introducing Massachusetts ideals of education into early Cannelton, and through him a small frame structure was soon built on the school lot. The land later became the property of James Hoskinson when the school was removed elsewhere in town, and is now

a part of Mr. and Mrs. George Kendley's (Lucetta Johnson) poultry farm.

An addition to the original Cannelsburg plat was laid out for Francis Y. Carlile to the south of Casselberry Creek, and touching the nickname "St. Louis," by which it has always been locally known, a story was long related which is here given for what it may be worth.

When the first large hotel built by the Coal Company was burned down in 1839, its lessee and landlord, John Wentworth, thrown out of business by the fire, announced his intention of moving to St. Louis, Missouri. He made full arrangements, but changed his mind on the eve of departure and merely went to the other side of Casselberry Creek. Much raillery, both good-natured as well as sarcastic, was indulged in at his expense by the few citizens, who dubbed his new location 'St. Louis,' a name still clinging to Cannelton's first ward and to an election precinct through which runs the turnpike officially designated St. Louis Avenue upon entering the southern limits of the city corporation.

## CHAPTER XI.

### ORIGINAL SCHOOL LAWS AND SYSTEM.

THE same Act of Congress, approved April 19, 1816, which enabled the people of Indiana Territory to form a state government originated the Congressional Township system, whereby Section 16 in every six-mile square, numbered boustrephedon, should be granted to the inhabitants for the use and benefit of public schools. Of these, Perry County contains eleven, counting a fractional section included in the south-eastern part of Cannelton's corporate limits.

Maintenance of schools was in a measure provided for by the first State Constitution, in its declaration that all fines assessed for any breach of penal laws, and all monies paid as an equivalent by persons exempt from military duty, (except in time of war,) should be applied to the support of County Seminaries in each county where they were assessed. Such money was to be held in trust by a Seminary Trustee; at first appointed by the Governor, afterward by the Board of County Commissioners, and later chosen by the people at a general election.

Soon after organization of the state government the Legislature provided for the appointment in each township of a Superintendent of School Lands, who had power to lease the lands for a term of years, applying the rents and profits to the support of schools. The first effective law, however, looking toward establishing a vigorous system of common schools was contained in the Revised Statutes of 1824, under "An Act to Incorporate Congressional Townships, and Providing for Public Schools therein."

The inhabitants of each (Congressional) township

were authorized to elect three school trustees, having control of the lands and schools generally, with power to divide their townships into districts and appoint sub-trustees therefor, school houses were to be built by the labour of all able-bodied male persons of the age of twenty-one years or more, residing in the district, with penalty of 37½ cents for each day of failure to work. The houses must be eight feet between floors, at least one foot from the surface of the ground to the first floor, and finished in a manner calculated to render both teacher and scholars comfortable. The Trustees also formed a board who examined teachers in regard to their ability to teach the 'three R's,' reading, writing and arithmetic.

Thus was the humble beginning of Indiana's present magnificent school system. Undeniably excellent in plan, its practical workings went on slowly, for the reason that no schools were to be established in any district until the wish of its inhabitants to that effect had been declared by ballot, while a want of sufficient public funds was a further hindrance. Only the bare necessities of life could be met by the teacher's 'wages,' which no one at that time dignified by the word 'salary.' Terms were seldom more than three months in duration, and rate-bills were levied upon the pupils to satisfy deficiencies.

Without drawing upon the pages of Edward Eggleston, or other masters of descriptive fiction, for vivid word-pictures of pioneer schools, some passing notice is due their customs. It is related that there was no regular time for opening in the morning, but whenever a pupil arrived he was compelled to take his seat and commence the study of his task. One fixed rule, of lingering survival, which thwarted all attempted classification, was that whoever reached school first in the morning should recite first during the day.

Sessions were much longer than now; even said by some to have lasted 'from sun-up till sun-down,' probably an exaggeration, as there was no recess except



at the mid-day play time. This period was customarily devoted by the teacher to making or mending the goose-quill pens with which his big 'round-hand' copies were painfully followed. Pupils were not required to prepare their lessons quietly, but each studied aloud—Oriental fashion—in whatever tone of voice best suited him. As recitations were heard one at a time, it is difficult to imagine how reading or spelling lessons could be conducted without a premium upon noise, so that he who made himself the most audible did the best work.

Four hundred dollars was the minimum set by law as required before a Seminary might be erected, and although the number of fines before Justices of the Peace (chiefly for assault and battery) seems extraordinary, the amounts ranging from one to five dollars, it is probable that not over half was ever collected, hence the fund accumulated but slowly.

Trustees were successively appointed to manage the fund, make loans, etc., and its amount was reported in 1828 as \$210.53, by Samuel Connor, then trustee. The next five years must have been a comparatively pacific period, since by March, 1833, the sum total had grown to only \$277.10, according to Shubael C. Little's report as trustee.

About 1834-35 the fund had almost reached \$400, so a small square brick seminary was erected in Rome, on Chestnut Street two blocks west of the public square, and was for years the leading (if not the only) school house in town, occupied in turn by several excellent teachers, some of whom held subscription schools not at county expense.

Isaac Hill, a well-educated man from Maine, was said to have been the first teacher and continued for several terms, as did his successor, Charles Brown. Solomon Lamb also taught in this building, and another early teacher was John C. Shoemaker, afterward a notable horticulturist, besides the incumbent of several county and state offices.



The frequent changes of teachers, each newcomer bringing to bear his own opinions upon problems he was not destined to remain long enough to solve, made practically impossible any educational scheme aiming at well-conceived results. With gradually increasing facilities of transportation, however, Perry County felt the advance ripples of that wave of population soon to sweep across the Middle West, covering Southern Indiana perhaps less deeply than other sections, but still with effect.

The pioneer Virginians, Carolinians and Marylanders who had crossed the Ohio were—in many instances—men of marked energy, mental and physical, who had made their own primitive schooling the foundation of a broader education whose dominant characteristic was an enlightenment of mind wholly independent of mere scholarship.

By heredity and environment they were thinkers, accustomed to look facts straight in the face, and thus had a training better in many ways than any school could furnish. From infancy they had lived in a certain atmosphere of backwoods culture, drawn in part from the few—but good—books accessible to them, yet in greater part through association with the powerful men, founders of our Nation, from whom was caught that dauntless spirit which conquered a new, virgin territory and made of Indiana a princely possession of the great Republic.

Adding to this Cavalier strain of blood the men of decided intellect who had come in smaller numbers from New England and the Middle Atlantic states, one can trace from the very first an impulse of betterment in the social atmosphere of Southern Indiana, a distinct uplift, sufficient to raise the average level. Bringing thus from widely remote sections their ideas, convictions, view-points, customs and standards of living, to dwell side by side in a region whose very fauna and flora show a singularly harmonious blending of two latitudes, Northerner and Southerner alike lost some-

what of prejudice and provincialism, gaining far more in a breadth of tolerant comprehension.

Into the composite communities of Perry and the other river counties came now and again an Irish, a French or a German family, some 'Pennsylvania Dutch,' Scotch or Welsh, groups of Switzers, to become neighbours and friends. Each outgrew the narrowness or bigotry in which he had been bred and developed a generous humanity unknown in sections whence each had come, so that Southern Indiana became more accurately representative of all that is best in American thought and life than any other part of the Union had ever been.

Joshua B. Huckleby, Samuel Frisbie and Solomon Lamb constituted the first Board of School Examiners for Perry County, appointed 1836, from which time a more orderly system of organization and maintenance came by degrees into the county schools as a unit. From this time on 'to keep school' was no longer the privilege of any ignoramus happening to be out of a job, rigid examinations in test of their fitness being required by the board of all who wished to serve as teachers. The courses of study were prescribed and regulated by boards, besides the choice of text-books and classification of pupils, even in country districts where complete grading was out of the question, and this personal supervision gave to school training a new and larger meaning which Perry County yet feels.

After erection of the seminary itself the fund seems to have constantly accumulated without being expended, and had reached \$2,285.64 in 1853, when by change of law it was absorbed into the common school fund and the building sold to private parties, of whom Elijah B. Huckleby was the final owner, after another purchaser had failed to meet deferred payments.

All three of the men comprising this original board were notable for their versatility, representing by birth the widely differing environments of Virginia, New York and Connecticut, and each in his turn played

many parts upon the stage of Perry County official life, where their names are of frequent recurrence.

Solomon Lamb was the senior of the others, both in years of age and of residence in the county, having come about 1808-09 from New York to Indiana with his parents, John and Beulah (Curtis) Lamb, whose eldest son he was. Born July 21, 1780, in Albany County, New York, he was married May 26, 1811, to Elizabeth Shepherd, a native of Kentucky. Like his father, he became the parent of twelve children: 1. Isabelle; 2. John; 3. William Shepherd; 4. Helen; 5. Amanda; 6. Thomas; 7. Robert Negus; 8. Solomon, Jr.; 9. Israel; 10. Eliza; 11. Ezra B.; 12. Cynthia.

He lived first in Tobin Township, but soon afterward in Troy, when the county was officially organized. He was the first Sheriff, Recorder and Clerk, all in 1814, serving only two years in the first-named capacity, but holding the other two for a period of twenty-three years. His son, William S. Lamb, succeeded in 1837 to the position, which he held fourteen years, the longest tenure on record in Perry County of one office in a single family, father and son. In 1841 William S. Lamb also took his father's place as School Examiner, but the last office held by Solomon Lamb (County Commissioner, 1845,) does not appear to have been transmitted to any of the family at his death in 1848.

William S. Lamb became a quartermaster with rank of major during the War Between the States, and his direct descendants now reside in Gibson County. Many lines of descent keep up the blood of John Lamb, Sr., and Solomon Lamb, Sr., in Indiana as well as other states, and near the old home place in Tobin Township a wide relationship has come down from the marriage of Israel Lamb, Sr., and Margaret ("Peggy") Winchel, a daughter of John and Rachel (Avery) Winchel. Israel Lamb was twice chosen Justice of the Peace, in 1814 and 1817, and in 1818 another brother, John Lamb, was elected Sheriff.

Samuel Frisbie, born about 1779, in Plymouth, Litchfield County, Connecticut, who had been admitted to the bar in 1819, was one of the most notable and successful of the early resident lawyers and was elected County Treasurer in 1822. At the election of 1828 he was chosen Representative and was sent to the upper house two years later as joint-Senator. In 1833, 1835 and 1840 he was elected Justice of the Peace, thus deriving the title of 'Squire, which clung to him the remainder of his life, and in the Constitutional Convention of 1850 he was Perry County's delegate, elected by one vote over his opponent, Dr. Robert G. Cotton, of Troy.

His letters from Indianapolis, which were printed at the time in Perry County's first newspaper, the *Cananlton Economist*, give their own testimony to his ability and broad-minded views. As a lawyer he was above the average, painstaking and adroit in the management of a case, swift yet deep of comprehension, with the principles of common law thoroughly at heart. His acquaintance was extensive throughout Indiana and the expression then current, 'a man of parts,' well describes him.

The provision contained in the new constitution that whenever the citizens of Perry and Spencer Counties became so inclined they might establish metes and bounds of a new county, to be formed out of about equal parts of each, not to exceed one-third thereof, and that an election should then be held whereby a majority of the voters in both counties should determine whether a new county should be formed, was not, however, the work of Samuel Frisbie, but represents an early phase of legislative "lobbying," reading between whose lines it is easy to trace the fine Italian hand of Troy.

Resentful over their loss of the court house to Rome in 1818 the Trojans brought to bear a strong pressure on the convention, their leader being John P. Dunn, who had removed in 1846 to Troy from Dearborn

County, his birthplace. He was a man of powerful personality, the father of eighteen children by three marriages, and was delegate from the senatorial district embracing Perry and Spencer. But the insertion of the aforesaid clause was the full measure of success gained, so far as Troy was concerned. Although Dunn himself was chosen Auditor of State in the election of 1852 the local result was crushingly adverse to the Trojans' fond hopes, to-wit: For a new county, 311; against a new county, 1,041.

Samuel Frisbie's death occurred May 24, 1854, and is thus recounted on the records of the circuit court then in session at Rome: "Mr. Pitcher (John Pitcher, Prosecutor) now here announces to this court that Samuel Frisbie, late an attorney of this court, departed this life at his residence in Rome on the twenty-fourth instant, whereupon, as a testimony of respect for the deceased, court adjourned until 3 o'clock p. m., May 25, 1854."

Joshua Brannon Huckleby, often a colleague and not infrequently an opponent, was perhaps less versed in law, but as an orator was said to have wielded far more power over a jury than Frisbie, though a close personal intimacy existed between the two men, Huckleby surviving his friend and fellow-politician for an entire generation, or until March 22, 1889.

Those were the golden days of stump speakings and cross-roads flag-raising, now gone forevermore. Personality rather than partisan issues struck the dominant note in all political discussion. He who could vituperate an adversary the more vehemently in joint debate was rated by his listeners the more powerful orator.

Joshua B. Huckleby was elected a Justice of the Peace in 1833, and three times was sent to the Legislature as Representative, in 1837, 1843 and 1845. The second of these was that memorable session at which Lieutenant-Governor Jesse D. Bright as president of

the Senate by his privilege of the casting vote postponed the regular election of a United States Senator until the next session, when he hoped to be—and was—the victorious candidate.

Doctor Robert G. Cotton, of Troy, was then Perry County's joint Senator, and in the lower house Knox County was represented for the first time by James D. Williams, who became Indiana's governor long years afterward, in the spectacular "Blue Jeans" campaign of 1876. David Macy, of Henry County, David P. Holloway, of Wayne County, William A. Bowles, of Orange County, Samuel Hanna, of Allen County, were fellow-members with whom Joshua B. Huckleby was closely associated, regardless of political differences. With the clerk of the house, William H. English, then of Scott County, and later Representative for the Third Congressional District, there grew up a very warm friendship which lasted into the old age of both men, although they were always violently antagonistic on the platform.

Language of such flagrantly unparliamentary character that it would not today be tolerated in a police station was smilingly bandied to and fro. Fancy a political speaker of 1916—even a militant anti-suffragist—rising to follow his opponent's address with the amazing preface: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the statement to which you have just listened from my friend English is as false as the dregs of Hell—and Bill English knows it!"

Such was a specimen of the joyous pleasantries and verbal badinage exchanged in the 'forties between Whig and Democrat who were "Josh" and "Bill" to one another even down through the presidential campaign of 1880, when Winfield Scott Hancock, of New York, and William H. English, of Indiana, headed the Democratic ticket, while Joshua B. Huckleby was serving his twelfth year as Republican postmaster at Cannelton, an office he filled until Cleveland's first administration.

He was a marked example of the Old School politician, violently unrelenting in many inherited prejudices, and always delighting to dwell reminiscently upon the political triumphs of those early years when—it was his favourite boast—he knew “every man in Perry County, his politics, his religion, and the nighest way to his house.”



## CHAPTER XII

### FOUNDING OF LEOPOLD BY FATHER BESSONIES

TO THAT ardent missionary spirit of the French which, two centuries earlier, had sent Jacques Marquette and Jean du Lhut into an untamed continent's boundless wastes of forest verdure—mountains silent in primeval sleep; river, lake and glimmering pool, wilderness oceans mingling with the sky—may be attributed one phase of Perry County's development, distinctively individual from all the rest.

Augustus Bessonies, who was born at Alzac, Département du Lot, France, on the day of Napoleon's final eclipse at Waterloo, June 17, 1815, was the chosen instrument for this work, and in him lived again the dauntless courage of his consecrated predecessors. As a lad he attended the preparatory school of Montfaucon, going thence to the Seminary of Isse, near Paris, for the classics and natural philosophy.

In 1836 Simon Guillaume Gabriel Bruté, first Roman Catholic Bishop of Vincennes (with jurisdiction then covering all Indiana) paid a visit to Isse during a trip abroad, and although young Bessonies had already been received as a postulant for foreign mission by the Lazarist Order, upon the advice of his director, Father Pinault, he offered his services to the visiting prelate for his far-off American diocese.

Great was the joy of Bishop Bruté. Impulsively embracing Bessonies, he exclaimed: "*Je suis heureux à penser d'un autel nouveau dans ma chère Indiana.*" ("I am happy to think of a new altar in my dear Indiana.") "But," he added, "I have no seminary at Vincennes. Remain, therefore at St. Sulpice, and in three years I will send for you."



So he did, in 1839, but it was one of the latest acts in his long episcopal career. When Bessonies reached Havre to embark for America, the same sailing vessel in which he had engaged passage had brought to France the sad tidings of the good bishop's death. By the time the sorrowing deacon reached Indiana, October 21, 1839, Bishop Bruté had been committed to his last resting-place. In the crypt of a mortuary chapel beneath the high altar of St. Xavier's Cathedral his ashes repose to this day, and it is easy to feel that his spiritual presence was not far distant, to add its intangible benediction when Augustus Bessonies was elevated to the priesthood, February 22, 1840, by the Right Reverend Celestine Rene de la Hailandière, the new Bishop of Vincennes.

Work among the Indians of Cass County, near Logansport where the Pottawatomies and Miamis under Chief Godfrey long dwelt on their 'Richardville' reservation, was desired by Father Bessonies, but the decision of his bishop sent him instead to the forests of Perry County as the first recorded minister of the Roman Catholic faith therein. With that far-seeing ecclesiastical policy which in countless other instances has secured to the Church of Rome land grants of strategic value, Bishop de la Hailandière had entered, or soon entered, a tract near the geographical centre of Perry County, and it is no reflection upon his judgment that its destiny has not been all that he anticipated.

On page 355, of Deed Book C, in the County Recorder's office, we may read:

"State of Indiana, Perry County:

"I, the undersigned, in order to promote both the temporal and spiritual welfare of the French people coming from Europe, resolved to lay off a town of the name of Leopold, in which, with God's assistance, I intend to erect a temple to the glory of the Almighty

for them to worship therein their Maker, according to the dictates of their conscience; the most glorious privilege a human being can enjoy, and of which we boast in this country of Freedom, become for us an adopted Land of Promise.

“Leopold is situated in Perry County, State of Indiana, in Township Five South, Range Two West, Section One, and contains forty acres, more or less, to-wit: the East half of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of section, township and range as above stated, containing twenty acres, more or less; and the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of section, township and range above mentioned, containing twenty acres, be the same more or less.

“There is in Leopold one hundred lots. The town is laid off with six North and South streets running the whole length of the town, every one of them numbering (60) feet in width; the first street commencing at the Northeast quarter is Belgium Street; the second, Celestine Street; the third, Lafayette Street; the Fourth, Washington Street; the fifth, Caroline Street, the sixth, German Street.

“There is also six streets East and West, sixty feet in width. The first is named Rome Street; the second, Ohio Street; the third, Indiana Street; the fourth, St. Louis Street; the fifth, Troy Street; the sixth, St. Augustine Street.

“Each lot contains ninety-nine feet square, and every one of them is a corner lot. Four lots in the centre of Leopold will be kept for a public square, to-wit: the forty-fifth, forty-sixth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth; which lots I keep the right to dispose of and to donate to the county for any public advantage, with other property whenever Leopold will be a county seat.

“To the credit thereof, before any court of the United States, or any magistrate whomsoever, I give my hand and usual seal. Given at Leopold, Perry County, In-

diana, the eleventh day of November, eighteen hundred and forty-two.

“(Signed) Augustus Bessonies, Cath. P.”

“State of Indiana, Perry County :

“Be it remembered that on the eleventh day of November, eighteen hundred and forty-two, personally appeared before me, an acting Justice of the Peace for the county aforesaid, Augustus Bessonies, who acknowledged the foregoing deed to be his voluntary act and deed for the purpose therein mentioned. Given under my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

(SEAL) Arnold Elder, J. P.”

Father Bessonies’ own words, therefore, tell us the story of Leopold’s founding, with a simplicity of purpose whose equivalent is only to be found in that wonderful Compact signed by the Pilgrim Fathers

“——— on the waves of the bay  
Where the Mayflower lay,”

or among those peaceful Friends who laid out, in Penn’s Woods on the Delaware, their City of Brotherly Love,

“Whose streets still re-echo the names of the trees  
of the forest.”

Difficult, indeed, must have been the beginning of Father Bessonies’ pastoral labours in that almost unbroken forest which yet covered practically all of Southern Indiana, where clearings were few, established highways unknown, and the only travel possible by means of the blazed trees marking a course through the tall timber from one place to another. Furthermore, although a graduated seminarian, the brave young priest’s acquaintance with the English tongue was still rudimentary, while the point toward his steps were turned was as yet unnamed, even in Perry

County, and the way thither from Vincennes might have puzzled a seasoned backwoodsman.

A few years earlier, however, the Rev. Maurice de St. Palais (of noble French lineage, and later third Bishop of Vincennes), had established a mission upon the banks of Patoka River in Dubois County, for the German families living near, so Father Bessonies at length found himself safely in charge of the Rev. Joseph Kundek, of Jasper, to whom he was recommended for instructions as to the final stages of his somewhat vague journey.

Father Kundek had had the advantage of ten years' forest experience and it is told that he had himself blazed an original trail from Jasper to the site which he chose in 1840 for a new town, naming it Ferdinand, for the Emperor then reigning in Austria-Hungary. He drew, therefore, with his own hand a map, indicating by unmistakable natural landmarks such as rocks, creeks and hills, the route which Father Bessonies followed to his destination.

Nor was this the only instance wherein the revered Jasper priest marked out a path for his younger clerical brother, there being a distinct parallel in the extensive work carried on by the two men, with a strenuous activity unsparing of personal strength. Ill health, developed through exposure, brought Father Kundek's earthly life to its end, December 4, 1857, and the magnitude of his labours lying altogether outside Perry County may not be herein dwelt upon.

Father Bessonies, however, was one of those "men—so strong that they come to four-score years," living until February 22, 1901, being at that time Vicar General to the Right Reverend Francis Silas Chatard in Indianapolis, and an honorary Monsignor of the Vatican household, a title conferred upon him January 22, 1884, by Pope Leo XIII.

Held in affectionate esteem by people of every religion, or of none, for his many virtues, and for that winning disposition of *bonhomie*, which can not be

portrayed by an English equivalent, the fondest love of Monsignor Bessonies himself was always cherished toward the flock and field of his first twelve years' work, and Perry County was dear to his heart until the end; especially those parishes of Leopold, Cannelton, Derby, Oil Creek and Troy, where he was the first Roman Catholic who ever officiated.

He was, also, a veritable "circuit rider," with a weekly schedule which long read thus: Sunday, masses in Leopold and Derby; Monday, Leavenworth; Tuesday, Corydon; Wednesday, Newton Stewart; Thursday, Jasper; Friday, Taylorville; Saturday, Rockport; and a volume could be filled with incidents thrilling and pathetic of his career in the wilderness.

An acquaintance with William H. English, formed during the presidential campaign of 1844, became a warm personal friendship, and it was through the influence of English at Washington, whither he had gone to accept an important position in the Treasury Department, that President Polk established in 1847 a postoffice at Leopold, Father Bessonies receiving the appointment as postmaster.

A kinsman of the English family had already located in the tiny hamlet, Doctor William P. Drumb, its first resident physician, if resident be the correct term describing a rural practitioner whose range of patients was scarcely narrower than the circle of Father Bessonies' parishioners. Doctor Drumb and William H. English were first cousins on the maternal line, grandsons of Philip Eastin, "a Lieutenant in the Fourth Virginia Regiment in the War of the American Revolution," to quote the inscription on the tombstone marking the spot of his burial, 1817, in the Riker's Ridge (or Hillis) Cemetery, a romantic spot overlooking the Ohio River, in Jefferson County, some few miles north-east of Madison.

William P. Drumb and his wife, Sarah A. Stevens, were the parents of seven children, the eldest son, Elisha English Drumb, born May 20, 1841, in Leopold,

and educated for three years at West Point, becoming a successful lawyer and conspicuous politician in Cannelton, the father being the first County Clerk who lived there after it became the county seat in 1859. Through deaths and removals the children became widely scattered, none of the third generation now residing in Perry County.

The Drumbs were almost the only family of purely American stock coming into Leopold Township after the very earliest entries of Cunningham, Frakes, Mayo and a few others, but the French and Belgian immigrants of the 'forties have left a numerous progeny on the lands then taken up. Among the many names, only few of whom can be here enumerated, are noted Andrew Peter, who felled the first tree in the heavy timber and thick underbrush on the site where Leopold stands today; Jerome and Gustave Goffinet; Jean Baptiste Marcilliat; Jean and Victor Goffinet; André Joseph Marcilliat; Gérard Joseph Collignon; Jean François Allard; François Genet; Catherine Naviaux; Jean Baptiste and Josephine Nicolay; Dominic Demonet and Joseph James, both early merchants; Joseph François Claudel; Auguste Reynaud; John A. Courcier, a veteran of the Second War with England; François Devillez; James Hanonville and Jean Joseph Maire. All these were pioneer landholders.

Almost equally early came Peter and Angeline (Emery) Casper, with their twelve children, from Wurttemberg, the father having been a soldier under Napoleon. They were among the few German settlers of the locality. Somewhat later Peter and Margaret (Devillez) George, who were natives, respectively, of Hachy and Nobresart, Luxembourg, arrived with a family of ten children, so both these names are now extensively represented.

To his own patron saint, St. Augustine, was dedicated Father Bessonies' first church, a small log building at the southern edge of Leopold, eventually super-

seded by the present massive stone edifice on the same site, in the midst of "God's Acre" where

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

St. Mary's on the hill overlooking Derby, was his next mission established, followed by St. Croix, on Oil Creek, near what is now Branchville, and St. Pius, in Troy, at about the same period relatively from now.

The growing village of Cannelton could not be disregarded by the zealous pastor, who found among its newcomers many who were the spiritual children of his own faith and craved its ministrations. Only one place of public worship had been built, the Unitarian meeting-house at the corner of Washington and Third Streets (later becoming St. Luke's Episcopal Church), and since by the extreme liberality of its donors the edifice was open to every shade of belief, it was within its walls, on Sunday, June 10, 1849, following a service held by Father Bessonies, that the first Roman Catholic organization in Cannelton was effected.

Most of the ten or twelve families composing the proposed congregation were Irish by nativity or descent, so the trustees then elected, Dr. J. B. Smith, John W. Lyons, Anthony Clark and Michael Connor, were chosen as "trustees of a church to be erected in Cannelton, to be called St. Patrick's." From the American Cannel Company came the gift of an excellent lot in Seventh Street, facing the head of Madison Street, sufficiently large to accommodate future parochial buildings, besides a small parish cemetery. Such a donation had been customary with the company toward all religious and educational projects, with further liberal contributions of stone and other building materials.

Work was not begun until the following summer, but by the end of August the small stone edifice was under roof, and on September 22, 1850, the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, mass was said for the first time in the church. Father Bessonies officiated, and con-



tinued to serve the congregation for some three years, or until his removal from Perry County to Jeffersonville. The parish had grown to a size demanding a resident clergyman, so the Rev. Bede O'Connor, one of the Benedictines from St. Meinrad's Abbey, was placed in charge.

On Low Sunday, April 15, 1855, he was succeeded by the Rev. Michael Marendt, the third pastor of St. Patrick's and its last as an independent parish, the new, affiliated body of St. Michael's being separated from the mother-church by mutual agreement, February 28, 1858.

Seventy-eight German-speaking families then erected St. Michael's Church, still standing at the corner of Washington and Eighth Streets, leaving St. Patrick's Church to the English-speaking members of the congregation; the priest's house to belong to both, for the use of the clergy serving the two parishes. The Rev. Chrysostom Foffa, O. S. B., laid the cornerstone of St. Michael's Church, June 13, 1858, Peter Clemens, Nicholas Kasper, John H. Spieker and Jacob Wiss being trustees.

One year later, or June 19, 1859, the massive stone building, a handsome type of Perpendicular Gothic architecture, was solemnly blessed by the Rev. Bede O'Connor, though the graceful spire, rising to a height of 156 feet and a landmark to every traveller approaching Cannelton, was not finished for more than another twelvemonth. On September 30, 1860, however, the bell which still strikes the hours as a town-clock for all the citizens (three others, purchased ten years later, marking the quarters) was raised to the belfry after benediction and rang out for the first time its Angelus.



## CHAPTER XIII

### RONO AND NORTHEASTERN PORTION OF COUNTY

TROY was the second community in Perry County to become an incorporated town, the enactment being the work of Dr. Robert G. Cotton, a resident of the place, who represented the county in the Legislature of 1837, and later in the same year the first board of trustees was elected, consisting of Jacob Protzman, James B. Worthington, John Bristow, John Daniel and John Huff. This organization lapsed after a few years, however,—perhaps three or four—and an attempt to revive the corporation about ten years later resulted in failure. In the spring of 1859 the town was reincorporated, with Dr. Magnus Brucker, Cullen C. Cotton, Samuel K. Connor, Jacob Daunhauer and William T. Washer as trustees; David R. Hubbs, clerk, treasurer and assessor. Their first meeting was held May 4, 1859, when town ordinances were adopted, a corporate levy fixed, and the municipality has maintained a continuous existence thenceforward.

Investigation having discovered around Troy a deposit of brown marly clay of the quaternary epoch, from which it was believed that the finer white wares so extensively manufactured in England could be produced, in 1838 a charter was granted the Indiana Pottery Company "to manufacture at Troy, from the fire-clay beds there, Rockingham and other stoneware."

Among the stockholders were Samuel Casseday, John Bell, William Garvin, E. T. Bainbridge and Perley Chamberlain, of Louisville, besides Reuben Bates of Troy, who subscribed as his portion of the investment a tract of 160 acres of land adjoining Troy, under which lay the clay. Means to erect the required build-

ings and purchase the necessary apparatus were furnished by other members of the company.

By way of insuring success to the new enterprise, it was regarded as essential to import experienced labour, and potters of supposed skill were induced to come in considerable numbers from England. While some few of these brought out were trained men of industrious character, the majority arriving were the cast-off idlers and worthless scum of the Staffordshire potteries, who came to America merely as a holiday, having nothing to lose; or to evade the unsavoury reputation they had earned for themselves in the Five Towns.

The Troy pottery started up with flattering prospects, but in a short while the impossibility of making white ware from the clay was demonstrated, and the labourers showed themselves in their true light, spending over half their time in sheer idleness when presumably at work.

After a year of anxious effort by the company, business suspended, and the plant was placed in charge of Samuel Casseday, who leased it from time to time for various periods to some of the English workmen. He became the recognized owner and leased it in 1851 to Samuel Wilson and John Sanders, who continued the manufacture of yellow and Rockingham ware, through sundry vicissitudes of fire and calamity, becoming absolute owners of the property about 1860 when a two-story brick building was erected by Wilson alone. Sanders' death occurred in 1863, when his interests were leased to Benjamin Hinchco, an Englishman, like his associates.

In the extreme eastern portion of Perry County no town plat has ever been regularly laid out and recorded, but in very early times the home of an old settler on the river bank, some few miles below the Crawford County line, came to be known as Dodson's Landing, where there was a woodyard, and where passing store-boats stopped to traffic with the few neighbour-

ing residents, Jesse Martin later carried on the wood-yard for some years, until his death about 1840, after which his widow continued the business.

Job Hatfield, one of several brothers in an Ohio family, came down the river about 1842 in a store-boat, and after remaining for a year or two afloat though tied to the bank, with increasing trade at this point, finally landed his boat above high-water mark and conducted the store as a fixed establishment, moving his family into a log dwelling which had been commenced by the Martins.

From that time to the present the Hatfield family, through the lines of Job, Lorenzo Dow and William, have been associated with the frowning cliffs of "Buzzards' Roost," which come close to the river north of the rich bottom land between Oil Creek and the Ohio. In earlier days they were of important connection with the mercantile, professional and political affairs of Perry County, but the family name and stock is now more largely represented in Spencer, Warrick and Vanderburg Counties.

When a mail route was established in 1848 between Leavenworth and Cannelton, extending to Rockport, Job Hatfield was appointed postmaster and the settlement appears under the name Rono. This was said to be the name of an old dog once owned by Jesse Martin, which lived to an extraordinary age. Whether or not a true story, the hamlet remained as Rono until 1896, when the postal department changed it to Magnet, the present title.

The most important, if not the only, commercial interest of early Rono was the slaughtering and packing trade carried on for many years by the Hatfields, a massive stone smoke-house, built after a disastrous fire in 1856, yet standing in testimony to their extensive operations. They also conducted a business in general produce and merchandise, shipping flatboats South like most other dealers of their time.

Job Hatfield was the last treasurer of Perry County

who held office in the old court-house at Rome, and an interesting story, not without its exciting side, is recalled concerning an incident of his term, 1856-1860.

There were then no banks in the county, available as depositories, and the county funds were kept in such places of security as the treasurer could devise. On one occasion of taxpaying, when certain exceptionally large sums had been paid in, some circumstances aroused Treasurer Hatfield's suspicions, so that he determined to leave no money in the rather fragile county safe that night.

Carrying home, therefore, after dark all the coin and bills, in a huge sack whose weight was about all he could handle, he put it into a coal-scuttle which he next filled to the brim with loose coal, completely hiding the money-bag. Then calmly going to sleep, the first news to greet his awakening was that the treasurer's office had been "robbed," the safe broken into and all its contents stolen.

Hatfield received the startling messages with no sign of disturbance, merely saying that he would be at the court-house for business at his usual hour. And so he was, quietly bringing with him the money which he had in private removed from its place of concealment, so that no one, not even his immediate family, knew until long afterward just where the county treasure had been hidden over night.

The first physician of Rono was Dr. Hiram M. Curry, born September 23, 1827, in Brown County, Ohio, a son of William and Hannah (Adkins) Curry, who were natives, respectively, of Virginia and New York. After attending an academy in Maysville, Kentucky, and Shurtleff College, Alton, Illinois, he took a three years' course in Ohio Medical College, soon afterward locating in Perry County, where for two years he was associated with Dr. William P. Drumb, of Leopold.

Later, he practiced alone at Rono, and for one year (1853) at Rome while filling out the unexpired term of William Van Winkle as auditor. Still later he lived at

Grandview, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at Cannelton, and lastly in Spencer County again. His first marriage was to Julia A. Hatfield, of Rono, May 18, 1855; Letitia Lamar, of Spencer County, becoming his second wife in 1864; and Fannie W. Smith, his third, in 1883. The offspring of these three unions keep up the Curry name elsewhere in Southern Indiana.

Probably the earliest minister of the Gospel in eastern Perry County was Joseph Springer, who organized a Methodist class, meeting first in his own home and later at the log "Springer School-House," one of the most conspicuous school-buildings of the time in its locality. Meetings were also held near Leopold, where some of the members resided, as people then went many miles for the privileges of divine worship. Circuit riders came once a month, or more seldom, and a journey of six or eight miles was considered nothing.

The Springers, Hatfields, Currys, Barrs, Borers, Heddens and Daileys were pioneer Methodists, and an early organization of the United Brethren (eventually disbanded) had several branches of the Myers and Figgins families as its principal members. Among the Universalists near Rono who held meetings at Beech Grove School-House were the Ewings, Tates, Spencers, Richardsons, Ballards and Millers, while Weedman, Farmer, Stiles, Cost, Rosecrans and Sinclair were names constituting the membership of a strong class who built a Disciples of Christ church some few miles west of Rono.

Some distance farther to the interior, and nearer to where Branchville was laid out in 1866, the Oil Creek Baptist Church was organized in 1851, by the Rev. R. M. Snyder and the Rev. J. Armstrong. Among its original members were James Falkenborough and his wife Barbara. Polly Frakes, Nancy Shaver, Daniel Rhodes and Charles A. Cunningham, the first clerk. The Cunningham family have maintained to the present their active support of this denomination and rank among the foremost Baptists in Perry County.

Although material and commercial development was more marked elsewhere, the eastern section of the county furnished the earliest example of systematic effort toward mental and social culture, especially commendable in view of the sparsely settled region. The first regular organization (other than religious) recorded in Perry County was "The Flint Island Lyceum," whose initial meeting was held January 19, 1843, its preamble then adopted stating that: "We, the citizens of Perry County, Indiana, being desirous of literary improvement and the dissemination of useful knowledge, agree to form ourselves into a literary society."

W. A. T. Blakeburn was chosen permanent president, and Israel Stevenson, secretary, while among others signing the constitution and by-laws appeared the names of William Stark Minor, Jonathan D. Esarey, J. H. Esarey, Fielding Deen, Joseph Deen, J. E. Springer, John Peckenpaugh, Richard Myers, William Myers, I. W. Myers, James Myers, William Figgins, Reily Figgins, W. L. Sapp, William Hatfield, Joseph McFall, Wesley Riddle, Stephen Martin, Andrew Gilliland, Thomas Gilliland, J. A. Gilliland (non-residents) and others. During the lifetime of the society it was well conducted, with the usual exercises of debates, discussions, declamations and orations, until its eventual abandonment.

The Sons of Temperance organized about 1847 at Rome a branch of the national order which had been established five years earlier in New York City, continuing their zealous work for several years, extending to Cannelton and other points nearby, though without long duration.

The first of the great fraternal societies to enter Perry County was the Masonic order, Morris Lodge No. 97, F. and A. M., being instituted April 27, 1849, at Cannelton, with N. H. Ewing, W. M.; Elijah Moore, S. W., and E. M. Clark, J. W. Its charter was granted one month later, May 29, 1849, with the following

charter officers: Abijah Moore, W. M.; E. M. Clark, S. W.; Joshua B. Huckleby, J. W.; R. G. Tift, Secretary; Shubal C. Little, Treasurer; G. K. Foots, S. D.; S. Nosinger, J. D.; E. Moore, T.

Owing to internal differences this lodge surrendered its charter after three years and was granted a dispensation October 7, 1852, as Cannelton Lodge No. 152, with M. F. Ross, W. M.; E. Moore, S. W.; and Joseph M. Gest, J. W., to whom a new charter, still in effect, was granted May 26, 1853.

James Lodge No. 100, I. O. O. F., was instituted November 29, 1851, in Cannelton, by G. B. Jocelyn, D. G. M., with Willard Claflin, N. G.; Ziba H. Cook, V. G.; M. Fitzpatrick, Secretary; Jacob B. Maynard, Treasurer. January 21, 1852, is the date of its charter and Thomas Hay was its first initiate.

Its career has been one of uniform success, and it is the only order (1915) in Cannelton owning its hall. A building fund was commenced in 1866, \$1,500 being realized by a notable fair held in Mozart Hall, a notable assembly-place in Cannelton's earlier years, still standing at the corner of Front and Madison Streets. Now put to prosaic uses, its fort-like stone walls give no hint of gaieties they once beheld.

On November 28, 1878, the present Odd Fellows' Hall, a substantial brick edifice at the corner of Third and Washington Streets, costing over \$10,000, containing handsome and appropriately furnished lodge-rooms, was formally dedicated by official ceremonial, followed by an elaborate banquet, and a ball, at night, which was one of the most brilliant semi-public functions ever witnessed in Cannelton.

Rome Lodge No. 133, F. and A. M., was chartered May 26, 1852, with John C. Shoemaker, W. M.; Isaac W. Whitehead, S. W.; William Hyde, J. W. Its membership, at first small, became later large and active, but has undergone the usual vicissitudes of a declining community, though always a high standard of enthusiasm and efficiency. Some of Southern Indiana's most



learned brethren of the compass and square took their work as neophytes in the hall of old Rome Lodge. Noteworthy among these were three sons of Elijah Brannon Huckeby—Lawrence Brannon, George Perry and Robert Thompson Huckeby—each of whom became profoundly versed in ritual of the ancient craft.

Troy Lodge No. 256, F. and A. M., was organized August 20, 1859, under a dispensation authorizing the institution exercises, when the officers installed were: Remus W. Tong, W. M.; William T. Washer, S. W.; S. S. Amos, J. W.; J. G. Heinzle, Treasurer; William Basye, Secretary; Charles McNutt, S. D.; Dr. Magnus Brucker, J. D.; Henry Jordan, T. The charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of Indiana, May 30, 1860, and the rolls show John D. Williamson to have been the first candidate raised.



## CHAPTER XIV

### LAWYERS, JUDGES AND FIRST NEWSPAPERS.

AT the May term, 1846, Judge Embree was succeeded by Hon. James Lockhart, of Vanderburg County, who had already become one of the foremost lawyers in Southern Indiana, so that his elevation to the bench of the Fourth Judicial Circuit was a deserved tribute to his ability.

For several years an indictment for kidnapping had been standing on the court docket of Perry County against Benjamin S. Harrison and William B. Harrison, reciting that they had forcibly taken a free negro named Thomas, living in the county, had conveyed him into one of the Southern states and sold him as a slave. In 1846 two other free negro residents of Perry County, Abraham and Abigail, were abducted by Nathaniel Dupree—not "Simon Legree"—carried South and sold into slavery.

None of these offenders was ever found by officers or brought to justice. Although slavery was not permitted on Indiana soil, sentiment in the river counties recognized it as a vigorous institution flourishing just over the border, and it was a statutory crime anywhere in the state to harbour fugitive slaves, so that pursuit of Dupree or the Harrisons was regarded as unimportant.

The last in line of associate judges before the office was abolished were: Thomas Tobin, 1837; Stephen Shoemaker, 1838; Amos L. D. Williams, 1844; James Wheeler, 1845; John Groves, 1846; Daniel Curry, 1851; and Samuel Miller, 1851. Among the attorneys admitted were Lemuel Q. De Bruler, George W. Williams and William H. Hanna, 1846; Thomas F. DeBruler and

Nathaniel C. Foster, 1847; David T. Laird and James E. Blythe, 1848. These men were all from other counties, though the De Brulers and Laird, who lived in Rockport, were regularly identified with Perry County practice during their generation.

In 1849 Cannelton's first resident lawyer was admitted, Charles H. Mason, who had just taken up his abode there after the customary short period spent in Kentucky. He was a native of New Hampshire (Walpole, his Cheshire County, birthplace, being also General Seth Hunt's home town), belonging to that old Colonial family of the Captain John Mason who with Sir Fernando Gorges had founded, in 1622, the royal province of "Laconia" under charter from James I. It was after a division of this grant that Captain Mason bestowed upon his portion the name New Hampshire, to commemorate the English shire of Hants (Hampshire) where the Masons had long held estates.

Charles Holland Mason, born August 9, 1826, was the son of Joseph and Harriet (Ormsby) Mason, and received a thorough classical education to fit him for the law, a profession for which he seemed to possess a hereditary bent. A near collateral relative, to whom he bore a striking personal resemblance, was the Hon. Jeremiah Mason, of Boston, for many years the law partner of Daniel Webster.

No resident lawyer practicing before the Perry Circuit Court, or upon the Common Pleas bench, where he sat twice during the existence of that court, ever ranked higher than Charles H. Mason. Of distinctively oratorical temperament, profound in legal lore, he was a strong speaker, witty, high-minded and eloquent. He founded Perry County's first newspaper, the Cannelton Economist, in 1849, maintaining it at a remarkable standard while its editor, and in later life was a constant contributor of brilliant miscellany to many journals and some of the best magazines. Under the nom-de-plume of "Sandstone" his writings, purporting to come from Rock Island, were a feature of

Cannelton journalism during the sixties and seventies, along the same line of humourous character sketches which have given "Abe Martin" a place in current literature.

March 21, 1852, in Cannelton, Charles H. Mason was married to Rachel Littell (Huckeby) Wright, a daughter of Joshua B. and Rebecca (Lang) Huckleby, but no children were born to the union, which was of thirty years duration, terminated February 26, 1883, by Mrs. Mason's death. In 1890 Judge Mason, who had continued to reside in Cannelton, was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison as United States Commissioner for the Indian Territory (before the organization of Oklahoma) with headquarters at Vinita, where he died in June, 1894.

In 1850 Thomas O. Stonements was admitted to practice before the Perry County bar, and the following year the names of William A. Wandell and John W. Grimes were recorded.

In October, 1851, Governor Joseph A. Wright commissioned as successor to Judge Lockhart for the Fourth district circuit, a man whose personal distinction was the highest of any ever wearing judicial ermine or holding aloft the scales of Justice in Perry County, Alvin P. Hovey, of Mount Vernon, a native Indianian whom his fellow citizens delighted to honour, and who at his death forty years later, November 26, 1891, was loyally serving them in the most exalted office within their gift—as Governor of Indiana.

His ability more than sufficed to grasp the most tangled intricacies of law, solving every problem with equity and a conservatism which rigidly sustained the dignity of the bench under all circumstances. Such a standard of authority had not been habitual in *nisi prius* courts, and while Judge Hovey's personality commanded for itself the highest esteem of all, his natural disposition was better fitted for the Supreme Bench which he later adorned.

His military record as Brigadier-General during the

War Between the States was that of a brilliant commander; beloved, from his staff-officers down to privates; surpassed by none in patriotic devotion to his state and his country. Recognition of this was made in President Johnson's appointing him Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru, where he figured as a polished diplomat, choosing as his First Secretary of Legation a young Perry County man, Thomas James de la Hunt, who had previously been a favourite Adjutant on his staff.

Burwell B. Lea was prosecuting attorney in 1848, living at Rome, and was described as a keen, shrewd lawyer, not particularly well-read but so fluent before a jury that his clients with little of law or equity in their favour were frequently rewarded by a far greater success than they had reason to anticipate.

William A. Wandell, of Cannelton, admitted in 1851, was probably an abler man, though of somewhat the same type, and obtained his first prominence in the criminal court of Hancock County, Kentucky, where he assisted in defending the notorious Robert and Moses Kelly.

These two brothers were hanged in Hawesville in the spring of 1853, after a trial which found them guilty of brutally murdering three men—Gardner, Miller and an unidentified deckhand, Friday night, October 22, 1852, on board the flatboat Eliza No. 2, tied up near Thompson's Ferry, between Troy and Lewisport. Their execution was the first ever held anywhere near and was witnessed by thousands of spectators, so that it became a standard by which all other public gatherings were measured for years afterward, and "the biggest crowd since the Kellys were hung" became an oft-repeated saying.

Judge Hovey was the last President Judge who sat between Associate Judges upon the bench in Perry County, as the courts of Indiana underwent a radical change by the adoption of the new constitution of 1852. Many of the old common law proceedings were forever

dispensed with, and the stream of litigation appears to have flowed in a smoother channel when that class of contentious actions known as "Trespass on the Case," "Trover," "Assumpsit," "Case," and others of similar nature passed from sight.

The present code has been in force since May 9, 1853, upon which date, it has been said, "there were buried beneath reform in pleading and practice the remains of John Doe and Richard Roe, who had been familiar to every lawyer from time immemorial, and had supplied a legal fiction in actions for recovery of real estate, but the new law provided that every case should be prosecuted by the real party in interest, and upon the real party complained of."

John Doe and Richard Roe were mythical personages who had so long appeared as plaintiff and defendant in common law that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. The cheerful alacrity with which John always stepped in to vindicate the alleged right of the man out of possession, and the equal promptness of Richard to insist that the man in possession was the lawful owner and entitled to retain his tenancy, were such that the final leave-taking of these doughty knights-errant of the common law was not free from regret.

With an abolition of these fictions, a modification and simplification of many terms by which land was held in feudal times, much of the intricate learning of the old law has faded away, save as mere matters of history. Those who had studied common law and by long years of practice had become thoroughly imbued with its principles, admired it for its grandeur, wisdom and equality, and because it embodied the right system of social and political economy.

It had been rooted in the experience of ages and its adherents were awe-struck at any attempt to prune it of even the smallest branches. Innovation was regarded as sacrilege by many of the elder practitioners, who refused to become reconciled to the change, and

not a few went so far as to abandon the practice of their beloved profession. Subsequent years, however, have proven beyond shadow of doubt that the legislation of 1852 inestimably facilitated the practice of law in Indiana.

Ballard Smith, a native of Durham, Strafford County, New Hampshire (a brother of Hamilton Smith), who had become a resident of Cannelton in 1853, was the first attorney admitted to the Perry County bar under the new code, at the November term, 1853, and was also the last admitted by Judge Hovey.

William E. Niblack became the next circuit judge, in May, 1854, coming from his home in Martin County, where he had practised for only a few years at Dover Hill, and was unusually young to be called to a position of such importance. Notwithstanding his inexperience, he made an excellent judge, as extraordinary common-sense came to his aid when legal lore proved lacking, enabling him to administer equity if not law. Honesty and uprightness, added to kindness and affability were qualities which made friends throughout the circuit, so that he was sent later by his district to Congress, and afterward became an important member of the Indiana Supreme Court.

Another change in ownership of the thousand-acre tract lying along the river northwest of Cannelton, entered 1811 by Nicholas J. Roosevelt but soon transferred to Robert Fulton and held for some thirty years by the Fulton heirs in chancery, brought into Perry County as a distinguished citizen, Elisha Mills Huntington, who had been a resident of Terre Haute since 1822 and who in 1841 had received from President Van Buren his appointment as Judge of the Indiana District Federal Court.

Judge Huntington belonged to that noted Connecticut family which furnished as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence Samuel Huntington, whose name took its place in Indiana history when the county, town-

ship and city of Huntington were simultaneously organized in 1834.

Elisha Mills Huntington was the youngest son of Nathaniel and Mary (Corning) Huntington, and was born March 27, 1806, in Butternuts, New York, receiving his educational training at Canandaigua. After locating in the Middle West he married, November 3, 1841, Mrs. Susan Mary (Rudd) Fitzhugh, born January 8, 1820. She was a daughter of Dr. Christopher Rudd, of Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky, belonging to an old Maryland family closely related to Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Her mother's name, Ann Benoist Palmer, denotes the Huguenot lineage of Carolina, and John C. Calhoun was a relative through the Caldwell family.

To rare personal beauty, whose charm was famed far beyond the two states of her nativity and adoption, Mrs. Huntington added mental poise and equipment placing her abreast of her husband and in the foremost ranks of Indiana's talented women until the day of her unhappily early death, December 3, 1853. One of her latest activities was heading a movement by which a piece of plate was presented to Robert Dale Owen, of New Harmony, in recognition of his services in protecting the rights of women under the new Constitution, adopted, whereby both sexes were placed on an equal footing of property ownership in Indiana. One dollar was set as the maximum donation, but the superb silver pitcher still treasured by Judge Owen's descendants shows that Indiana's grateful women responded appreciatively to Mrs. Huntington's appeal.

For ten years "Mistletoe Lodge" was a name to conjure with among the country-seats bordering the Ohio River, none on either bank surpassing it in lavish hospitality, princely even when measured by old-school standards. Under the low-pitched roof-tree of the rambling mansion were welcomed many notable personages. Around its mahogany both master and mistress prided themselves upon keeping alive and intensi-



fiying that neighbourly kindness between Indiana and Kentucky, which was the pride and glory of the two great sister commonwealths.

Upon selling these broad acres in 1858 to the Swiss Colonization Society, Judge Huntington again took up his residence in Terre Haute, and the streets of a new town were cut through the forests of "Mistletoe Lodge" whose very site became lost under the sidewalks and business houses of a later generation.

Some of his children lived in Cannelton for several years during the sixties and seventies, held there by property interests in the American Cannel Coal Company, of which his brother-in-law, Hamilton Smith, was long the president, but Judge Huntington came back no more. Declining health brought about his end, four years after his departure from the riverside retreat of his happiest years, and he died October 26, 1862, at Saint Paul, Minnesota, whither he had gone seeking strength through a change of climate.

His masterly record on the bench was made in a wide field whereof Perry County was but a small fraction, yet to every local enterprise of Cannelton he gave that encouragement so essential to success, and the deepest interest toward furthering its advance. While his charges to grand juries on questions of vital import to the state and country at large brought him a national reputation second to no judge in the Union, he adorned his lofty position by the serene, polished dignity of his manner, no less than by his commanding talent as a jurist.

This gracious urbanity shone even more attractively in the amenities of private life. His personal correspondence and frequent contributions to the press were vivified by a sparkling sense of humour, yet ever betrayed the classic scholar. As a politician he was eminently conservative, without sympathy for extremists of any party. Reared a Whig, and only ceasing to be such through the dissolution of the national body, he early embraced and ever taught the same lessons of



reverence for the law, loyalty to the Constitution, and love of country which animated those luminaries of wisdom, Webster and Clay, his personal friends as well as his party leaders.

What richer legacy could his posterity ask?

## CHAPTER XV

### MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES AT CANNELTON

At the time the town plat of Cannelton was revised and re-surveyed with additions, Thomas Brashear, John Briggs, James Hay and Thomas Hay were the only resident lot-owners aside from the American Cannel Coal Company, whose officers were Stephen Fairbanks, President; Henry Loring, Secretary; Andrew T. Hall, Treasurer; Jacob Beckwith, James Boyd and Hamilton Smith, Directors. Jacob Beckwith owned 726 shares of stock; Francis Y. Carlile, 250; Fairbanks, Loring and Company, 72; Perley W. Chamberlain, 36; Stephen Fairbanks, 30; Hamilton Smith, 12; Andrew T. Hall, 10; besides an otherwise varied distribution of the remainder.

The general offices, which had previously been in Boston, were moved during 1846 to Louisville, where for many years afterward the director's meetings were held. Through the activity of James Boyd who, as lessee, had assumed control of operations in 1843, the annual production of coal had increased from a few thousand to almost a half million bushels; all of the soft, bituminous variety, semi-coking with a sulphurous parting. Practically no cannel coal was ever found in any paying quantity, though the original belief in its existence had furnished a name (*Lucus a non lucendo*) to the promoting company and to the city itself.

Such extensive fuel shipments, besides those of lumber and other products in large quantities, brought Cannelton prominently before the notice of capitalists seeking investments, so men of large means in the East, as well as in the important river cities of the Middle West and South became interested in this

locality. By the Indiana Legislature of 1847 twelve charters were granted for manufacturing companies designed to carry on business at or near Cannelton.

As illustrating the class of men embarking upon these enterprises, several of the projected undertakings, with their incorporators, shall be mentioned, although only one was carried to success,—the present Indiana Cotton Mills, founded under the name Cannelton Cotton Mills. Of the original Indiana Cotton Mills the incorporators were John Helm, (Governor of Kentucky, 1850-1851,) Charles A. Lewis, George W. Meriwether, Thomas N. Lindsey and William F. Pettet, all Louisville men except the first, whose home was the ancestral "Helm Place" in Hardin County, near Elizabethtown.

Louisville also provided incorporators for the Taylor Cotton Mills in Angereau Gray, Edward H. Hobbs, Ira Smith, John S. Allison, David Hunt and John McLean, Jr., besides Zachary Taylor (President of the United States, 1849-1850,) Joseph P. Taylor and William Taylor. The Taylors were allied by blood to the Hawes family, pioneer settlers of Hancock County, Kentucky, for whom its county seat was named Hawesville, hence had personal ties with the vicinity of Cannelton, but their factory was a structure on paper only, though Taylor Street in the town serves as a reminder of "Old Rough and Ready's" heroism in the Mexican War, having then been named.

The Ward Cotton Mills represented Ward, Ward, Johnson and Jones, of Louisville. Robert J. Ward, one of the wealthiest men in Kentucky and one whose name a fine steamboat bore, is still remembered best as the father of the renowned beauty, 'Sallie Ward.' Her career of social triumph was a national topic, lasting through four marriages and half a century of fame whose echoes yet linger wherever tales of fashion are told.

McKnight, Anderson, Brown, Martin and Everett incorporated the Perry Cotton Mills, which, like the

Ward mills, went no further than articles of incorporation, although some year later Anderson established in Meade County, Kentucky, near Grahamton, a cotton mill which was long operated by the water power of Doe Run. The Cannelton Glass Manufacturing Company had at its head Stephen M. Allen, of Boston, with Frederick Boyd, of Cannelton, and George A. Lewis. Griswold, Weisiger and Hanna, of Louisville, incorporated the Cannelton Paper Mill; and the Cannelton Foundry represented Beckwith, Beatty and Beatty.

Few, if any, industrial projects of the late 'forties could claim men of higher distinction than the incorporators of the Cannelton Cotton Mills. Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, 1864-1873; Charles T. James, of Rhode Island, United States Senator, 1852-1858; Elisha M. Huntington, Judge of Indiana District Federal Court, 1848-1862; Randall Crawford, of New Albany; James Boyd, of Cannelton; John N. Breden, Jacob Beckwith, Perley W. Chamberlain, James Low, Thomas M. Smith and Hamilton Smith. Of these the last two were brothers, born in New Hampshire of old Colonial stock, who had come to Louisville some years earlier, and to Hamilton Smith is due all praise as a foster-father to the young community which Francis Y. Carlile had established.

Full organization of the Cannelton Cotton Mill Company was effected September 22, 1848, though its name soon became the Indiana Cotton Mills, and the following officers were then chosen: William Richardson, President; Alfred Thruston, Treasurer; Hamilton Smith, Secretary; William F. Pettet, Thomas C. Coleman, James C. Ford, Lewis Ruffner, C. W. Short, Oliver J. Morgan, Perley Chamberlain and William McLean, Directors.

The number of stockholders had been augmented by forty or more, so that all the names will not be given here, but among the more prominent of those who held shares were the distinguished brothers, Robert Dale

Owen and Richard Dale Owen, of New Harmony; the Right Reverend Leonidas Polk, Bishop of Louisiana, founder (1857) of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, and later a Confederate General; Maunsel White, of Louisiana, grandfather of Chief Justice Edward D. White, of the United States Supreme Court from 1910 to the present; Henry Bry, also of Louisiana; James E. Breed, John S. Morris, Eusebius Hutchings, John B. Smith, Willis Ranney, S. H. Long, R. G. Courtney, John M. Robinson and Brother; Robinson, Peter and Carey; all of Louisville, where the control of the stock came ere long to be held.

Such concentration of capital and influence seemed to forecast the inevitable further development of Cannelton's peculiar advantages for manufacturing. Within easy access were bountifully deposited nature's valuable gifts—coal for motive power; iron for all its various uses; clay for pottery and brick; sandstone for building; timber for the construction of boats to ply the majestic river. Encouraged by these generous resources some of the most sanguine optimists even went so far as to predict that the Cannelton Cotton Mill would prove the first movement on a large scale eventually resulting in the transfer of the seat of cotton manufacturing from New England, no less than from the Mother Country, to the inexpensive power and low-priced food of Southern Indiana. A Utopian vision!

The early spring of 1849 found, nevertheless, Cannelton in a period of amazing activity, everyone busy, newcomers arriving daily, to engage in every variety of occupation. Among these was naturally a journalist, to lend the aid of printer's ink in giving publicity to such a promising settlement as the young community. Charles Holland Mason, of New Hampshire, who had been in Louisville for a year or so, following his graduation from law school, came to Cannelton through the influence of Hamilton Smith, and at once decided to begin a journalistic career.

On Saturday, April 28, 1849, therefore, appeared the

initial number of Perry County's first regular newspaper, *The Cannelton Economist*, whose prospectus described it as "A weekly journal devoted to the establishment of manufactures in the South and West, to agriculture and the cause of labour." For two-and-a-half years, or until November 15, 1851, when its ownership changed hands, the paper was characterized by its zeal for home institutions, the strong, dignified tone of its editorials, and the exceptional standard of its literary selections.

General Charles T. James, of Providence, Rhode Island, one of the Eastern stockholders, who had already built and equipped several successful mills, was placed at the head of the construction of the Cannelton Cotton Mills, as general manager and supervising architect. The active architect and contractor was Alexander McGregor, another Rhode Island man, residing in the twin capital of Newport, where he was a civil engineer on the Government work at Fort Adams. Higher testimony to their professional skill could not be paid than the edifice itself, an imposing model of rare grace and symmetry, which has often been pronounced the handsomest factory building in the state if not in the Union.

That beauty, no less than substantial utility, was sought by its designers is indicated by the pair of lofty towers which overtop by many feet the five-story building in whose western façade they are the central feature, dominating the long front with its two-story wings. In the northern tower a ponderous bell of cathedral-like tone was ensconced before its walls were complete, and served as a summons to the operatives until 1914, when—worn thin in places where its iron tongue had struck for three-score years—it had to give place to a modern steel bell, which still signals the same hours from cock-crow to curfew as its predecessor so long announced. A broad flight of stone steps leads from the ground to the main entrance between the towers, and the wide doorway is crossed by a stone

lintel on which is carved "Erected 1849." This was elevated to its place by Architect McGregor on Friday, September 7, 1849, the thirty-fifth anniversary of Perry County's organization. The premises lying between Washington, Adams, Front and Fourth Streets, were a donation from the Coal Company, and the original plan called for the erection of tenements to face either side of an esplanade running from the principal entrance westward to the river, but the idea was abandoned after planting two rows of trees down the centre. A tramway was built from the mill grounds to the quarry in the hill east of town where at least two hundred men were employed, as stone-cutters. Practically as many more were occupied in the work of excavating for the foundations, and other operations upon the immediate site.

With so much in progress along such varied lines, it was difficult to ascertain in advance the precise day when the first stone of the mill would be laid, and the event could not be announced in time to make it a formal occasion. Although the people and the labourers themselves knew not until almost the very hour that the deep foundations of their factory were to be commenced on Monday, May 21, 1849, yet when the first massive block of sandstone was turned down into its permanent resting-place, quite a concourse of attentive spectators had assembled to witness the notable scene.

In behalf of the stockholders James Boyd made a few impromptu remarks assuring their cordial co-operation in the upbuilding of "this hitherto quiet, unobtrusive settlement that has begun, of late, to attract some public notice." Alexander McGregor spoke, as the architect, in response, urging that no 'penny-wise and pound-foolish' notions should enter into the conduct of affairs, but that a fair and judicious use should be made of all means and opportunities.

The informal programme was brought to a close by the Reverend John Fisher, who had come from



Boston not long before as pastor of the Unitarian Church, and whose eloquent address included the remark: "When we consider the many local advantages which the erection of a cotton factory at this place enjoys; its immediate neighbourhood to a splendid sand-stone quarry that can turn out at small cost an article that would decorate a palace; also a rich and extensive coal-mine, both approachable within a few rods; when we consider the abundant supply of water, the magnificent scenery and salubrious climate, and especially the locality on the very banks of the great and beautiful Ohio, with every facility for transporting merchandise to the remotest corners of the world, who can doubt the speedy triumph of such a project and the ultimate realization of the most sanguine expectations of Cannelton's warmest friends."

"In conclusion," said he, "let me announce that the first stone of the Cannelton Cotton Mill is now laid, in the name of God, in due and ancient form, hoping that His All-Seeing Eye, that looketh with complacency on all laudable undertakings, will guide and govern our steps, preserving us all in health and strength during the erection of this edifice."

By December the building was under roof and in the following April the first shipment of machinery, two hundred and fifty tons in weight, arrived from Taunton, Massachusetts, on the steamers Empire and Magnolia. Under contract of two years' engagement, experienced operatives from Eastern factories were brought in the autumn of 1850, and on December 18 the steamer California, (commanded by Dwight Newcomb,) unloaded the first shipment of cotton ever consigned to Cannelton, 129 bales.

During this month some carding was begun, and George Beebe wove the first cloth on January 7, 1851, when thirty looms were started and about seventy hands were given work, the number being increased from day to day until spring found 108 cards, 372 looms and 10,800 spindles in use, operated by 300 em-



ployes, all the machinery proving a success from the start.

Ziba H. Cook, of Ballston Spa, New York, was the first resident general manager of the mill, arriving October 26, 1850, and taking up quarters in the large seventy-room hotel erected by the Coal Company and just opened to the public under the name Perry Hotel. It was conducted by Captain Edward Ayers, who resigned command of the Louisville and Henderson packet *Madison Belle* to become keeper of the new inn.

The building occupied the corner of Front and Adams Streets, and a portion of it yet stands, as the offices and mould-rooms of the Cannelton Sewer-Pipe Company, into whose possession the entire square passed in 1908. Several changes of proprietorship occurred before its disuse as an hotel, but it was never a successful venture, and it was partially remodelled for residence purposes by Hamilton Smith, president of the Coal Company, who made it his home for some twenty years. His eldest daughter, Martha Hall Smith, was there married to Alfred Hennen, Jr., of New Orleans, and they also maintained for several years a separate establishment in the big old house prior to their moving across the river to "Fern Cliff," a Kentucky estate formerly owned by Frederick W. Dohrmann, of Cincinnati.

During 1850-51 the cotton mill company erected a superintendent's residence from designs furnished by Ziba H. Cook, who then brought his family from the East. Its longest tenant, however, was his successor, Ebenezer Wilber, who resided there almost forty years, or until his death in 1892, his widow (Margaret Jackson) and family continuing to make it their home for some ten or twelve years longer.

After a period of vacancy and neglect, it was given a thorough renovation by the mill people in 1912, to become again a home for their general manager, Lee Rodman, and his wife, (Margherita Welling) and in its prominent situation at the corner of Washington

and Front Streets it remains the leading example of Cannelton's early domestic architecture.

The Cannelton Cotton Mills, whose name was soon changed to the Indiana Cotton Mills, commenced operations with complete mechanical success, but entire financial disappointment so far as the stockholders were concerned. The directors had promised them a dividend of ten per cent. the first year, but instead of this more money was required.

Horatio Dalton Newcomb, of Louisville, treasurer of the company, advanced \$30,000 of his own means in 1852, and the following year leased the plant at an annual rental of \$10,000, coming out with a personal profit of double that amount, over and above all expense. At the end of a third year he bought the property outright, for a debt of over \$200,000 against it, and the stock—or a controlling interest therein—was owned for the next thirty years by members of the Newcomb family.

It came to be realized that more direct personal supervision of resident interested parties was the only means of economical commercial operations, and this brought into Cannelton in the early 'fifties three men of marked executive ability, whose influence upon the community's life and growth was felt in many different ways during their generation.

Dwight Newcomb, a brother of Horatio D. Newcomb, came to Perry County in September, 1851, to look after his brother's interests in the cotton-mill, with no idea of permanent residence, but remained a citizen until his death in 1893. These brothers belonged to a family of twelve children, born in Franklin County, Massachusetts, to Dalton Newcomb and his wife, Harriet Wells, both natives of the Bay State and living in moderate circumstances. Their education was received in the common schools, and about 1840 the two brothers came to 'the South,' as Louisville was regarded, where their Yankee shrewdness laid the foundation of the wealth subsequently attained.

Dwight Newcomb clerked for five years in his elder brother's grocery, then engaged in steamboating for another five years, building in 1849 his own boat, the *California*, whose command gave him the title of Captain for the rest of his life. He was for a time president of the Indiana Cotton Mills, and in 1855 leased the American Cannel Coal Company's mines, under the firm name, D. Newcomb and Company, the other partners being H. D. Newcomb and James C. Ford. The investment of \$42,000 proved extremely profitable, a total dividend of \$400,000 eventually remaining after repayment of the original capital.

Captain Newcomb never married, but always lived in bachelor ease, taking a vacation of two or three months each year, and after retiring from active business indulged a fondness for wide travel in Europe and America. His first home in Cannelton was a stone residence on the river front (now included as part of the Sunlight Hotel) built according to his own designs, with massive oaken finish and furniture, which its name of "Oak Hall" indicated. This, however, he grew tired of and abandoned for a number of years. In 1882 he bought the conspicuous brick dwelling adjoining St. Luke's Episcopal Church, built in 1868 by Judge Charles H. Mason, and lived there until his death, July 4, 1893. His heirs sold the residence and its furnishings to various parties, and the nickname of "Newcomb Place," given it by later occupants, remains the only memento of the Captain himself.

Ebenezer Wilber was born, 1814, the year of Perry County's organization, but far away from its confines,—in Rensselaer County, New York, and was one of the four children of Samuel and Amy (Cook) Wilber, his mother belonging to a Rhode Island family of extensive Colonial connections. His education was received in his home of Schaghticoke, with one year's training at Lansingburg Academy.

After some years of clerking he made the acquaintance, in Ballston Spa, of Ziba H. Cook (not a relative)

the first superintendent of the Indiana Cotton Mills, and through him came to Cannelton in 1850. He first undertook a course of practical experience in textile manufacturing in a New York factory as a preparation for the position which he came West to fill, and the uniform success of his long management of the Cannelton plant proved the thoroughness of his training, down to the minutest detail.

The directors of the mill, in 1858, after five years' appreciation of his valuable services, presented him a costly silver tea and coffee service with massive salver, suitably inscribed, and the connection between superintendent, stockholders and operatives remained on terms of exceptional harmony until the close of his useful life, in 1892. He was married in 1853 to Miss Margaret Jackson, of Cannelton, and two sons—out of their five children—are yet living in Perry County.

Hamilton Smith is a name without which Cannelton's history might never have been recorded as it stands, since to his admirable foresight and the powerful arguments of his pen must be attributed, more than to anything else, that degree of public attention drawn to this region and leading to the material development of Perry County's natural resources at a vital period of national growth.

He was the son of Judge Valentine Smith and Mary ("Polly") Joy, his wife, born September 19, 1804, in Durham, Strafford County, New Hampshire, in the homestead of pure Georgian architecture which an ancestral Smith had built during the year 1736, and which stands in excellent preservation in 1915 in unbroken possession of the family, the personal property of Griswold Smith, Esq. The Smith lineage goes back to Old Hough, England, and their heraldic bearings show the same three wheat-sheaves that are quartered on the shield of Captain John Smith of Virginia. John Winthrop, first Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, and his successor, Governor Thomas Dudley, both were direct ancestors of Hamilton Smith.

At the age of twenty-one, after careful preparations, Hamilton Smith entered Dartmouth College, that already venerable and revered institution, the Alma Mater of Daniel Webster, Rufus Choate, Salmon P. Chase and many other truly great Americans. There he won Phi Beta Kappa honours and was graduated *summa cum laude* with the class of 1829. During a part of these years Chase was a fellow-student, and a friendship there grew up between the two young men which lasted under conditions of unusual warmth and intimacy until the death of the distinguished Chief Justice.

Three years later, in 1832, after reading law in the Washington offices of William Wirt and Levi Woodbury, young Smith came to Louisville and entered upon the practice of his chosen profession, following it for fifteen years with notable success. During the disturbed financial conditions of the 'thirties his keen judgment as the representative of sundry large Eastern bankers and merchants contributed to the accumulation of what was then regarded as a handsome fortune. In at least one year his practice amounted to over \$30,000—certainly exceptional at the time, and probably the largest of any attorney then in the West.

His love for the beautiful in nature and art led to the creation of an ideal country estate, "Villula," on the Bardstown pike a few miles from the city, and a show-place among Louisville's suburban homes even long afterward when owned by the Trabue family, of Hawesville. Hither he brought his first wife, Martha Hall, of Bellows Falls, Vermont, but she died in 1845, after bearing him seven children, of whom but two attained maturity,—Hamilton, Jr., and Martha Hall (Mrs. Alfred Hennen) both deceased.

In 1846 he was again married, to Louise Rudd, younger sister to the wife of Judge Huntington, of Indiana, a favourite in Louisville's choicest circles, where her beauty and accomplishments made her an acknowledged belle, ranking alongside her life-time

friend, the famous Sallie Ward. Of this union eight children were the fruit, some of whom were born in Cannelton, where several are buried in Cliff Cemetery, beside their parents in the family tomb.

In 1847 Mr. Smith commenced a series of articles in the Louisville Journal (then edited by George D. Prentice) clearly showing the advantages in power of the extensive Western coal-fields over the Eastern waterfalls, and the necessary profits which must accrue from building up manufactories in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, near to coal and to cotton, and on the great natural highways of the continent. Similar contributions to De Bow's Commercial Review, Hunt's Western Magazine, the National Intelligencer and other important periodicals had their effect, of whose results the present generation are yet the beneficiaries.

It was the desire of practically demonstrating the truth of these arguments and inaugurating a new industry that promised so much for the future of the West and the South, which led public-spirited men of Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi to organize the company for building the Cannelton Cotton Mills.

Hamilton Smith was among the foremost of these, one of the heaviest investors, and in the unexpected financial difficulties which grew out of the novelty of the enterprise, with other causes, a large part of his private fortune was sunk beyond redemption in the sacrifice sale of the mill to the Newcomb family. Another instance of the ill-luck proverbially attending the originators of daring and untried ventures.

In December, 1851, he removed with his family to Cannelton, as president of both the cotton-mill and coal companies, taking up his residence in the river wing of the original hotel building at Front and Adams Streets, which was remodelled for his occupancy and where he lived for the next twenty-two years. Severing his connection with the American Cannel Coal Company, in 1873, he then removed to Washington, but



had been there less than two years when—on February 8, 1875—he died suddenly of heart disease. Death came so swiftly that no words were spoken to his family, nor any recognition made by him of the loved ones around. Unconsciousness took instant possession, and the brilliant light of his life was quenched in darkness without the faintest flicker such as usually foretells the approaching moment of dissolution.

For a score of years Louise Rudd Smith stood as Cannelton's highest type of devoted wife and mother,

“A perfect woman, nobly planned  
To warn, to comfort and command,”

making her house the abode of culture and refinement where, in addition to every material luxury, rare art treasures and a library numbered in the thousands, there was always the greater attraction of family affection unbroken and unalloyed, showing it in the truest sense a home.

Of unfailing kindness and consideration to those outside her immediate circle, in works of charity and piety she was a shining example to the community, her purest joy being to uplift in God's praise before His altar her superb soprano voice, of exceptional range and finished cultivation.

Cannelton was in her husband's thoughts to the last, and within the month of his demise he was actively negotiating plans toward its further advancement, looking to his own return thither, which would probably have been effected within a reasonable time had his life been spared.

But when he came back it was in the silence of death, to depart no more. His obsequies were conducted with solemn simplicity in the sable-draped St. Luke's Church on March 9, 1875. The day was intensely cold, yet the church was crowded and the funeral procession of unequalled length. A pathetic feature was the empty phaeton in which he had driven for many years, drawn by his favourite horse, “Preacher,” which one

of his devoted former employes led directly behind the hearse,

“As when the warrior dieth \* \* \* They  
After him lead his masterless steed.”

Through the snow-clad streets and up the winding road to Cliff Cemetery, amid tolling bells from every steeple in Cannelton, the long cortege took its way to the spot selected years before for his last resting place, where all that was mortal of Hamilton Smith was laid, to sleep the sleep that knows no waking, beneath the whispering boughs of two immemorial oaks that have long kept their watch and ward far above the rippling waters of the Beautiful River he loved so well.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS AT CANNELTON.

WHILE the Methodists were the earliest religious body organized in Cannelton, the first edifice erected for public worship was by the Unitarians about 1845, and the New England type of Colonial meeting-house was faithfully reproduced in the rectangular frame building, with severely square belfry, which still stands after seventy years of use, at the southeast corner of Third and Washington streets, one of the few original landmarks of pioneer Cannelton. Its actual history, however, is as St. Luke's Episcopal Church, which it became in the middle 'fifties, as Unitarianism was but short lived in Perry County.

James Boyd, whose liberality had provided the first schoolhouse for the village, was also one prime mover in this pioneer church work, being the chief contributor and a trustee, together with Messrs. Fairbanks and Frothingham, of Boston, in its ownership. The site was a donation from the Coal Company, who also gave for parsonage purposes a corresponding lot on the corner of Washington and Fourth streets, which was never thus used, though the ground was held by the church for over fifty years.

The Rev. John Fisher was the first and only resident pastor of the Unitarian belief, as the denomination was not of rapid growth among the incoming settlers. With a commendably broad-minded spirit, the deed of gift provided for the use of the building by any Christian minister for Divine Worship, and many various services were held from time to time within its walls, besides different public meetings, lectures,

etc., notices of which were printed in *The Economist* as to be held 'at early candle-light.'

Captain John James may be regarded as father of the Presbyterian society, which was organized early in the 'fifties, though the congregation endured as such for only a few years. He was born December 28, 1808, in South Wales, the eldest son of James and Catherine (Howell) James, of old Welsh stock, and received a liberal education in that language as well as English, his father being a prosperous woolen manufacturer. He married Margaret Jones, also of Wales, who bore him ten children, several of whom lived with their parents in Cannelton until the family removed about 1869 to "Corn Island," near Grandview, and the line is now one of extensive connections in Spencer County.

The American Cannel Coal Company gave to the Presbyterians a lot at the northeast corner of Fourth and Adams streets, on which a frame church thirty-six by forty feet was built, and an adjoining lot running to Fifth street became the manse. The frame residence is yet standing and is the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Curtis Minor (Marguerite Conway). The Rev. George F. Whitworth was the first pastor, serving as such for several years, but the organization lapsed four or five years afterwards and has never been renewed. The church edifice was used as a grammar department of the public schools in 1861-62, and following the War Between the States the building and lot were granted to the African Methodists, who maintained regular services there for some thirty years, until an exchange of property was made in 1907, and their buildings were removed to Fourth near Congress street.

Mrs. Whitworth, the Presbyterian dominie's wife, was a woman of superior culture, and in 1849-50 taught a select school giving excellent satisfaction. For a term of eleven weeks the rates were: Primary, \$3; Junior, \$5; Senior, \$6; Piano Music, \$10; Use of Instrument, \$2; Needlework, as arranged. By degrees

her institution became exclusively a girls' school, though in the beginning boys were received.

The Rev. David Boyer, who succeeded Mr. Whitworth as pastor, continued the school for a time, with Miss Julia Boyer as his assistant. In 1851 they taught the first session in the new stone public school building erected on the hillside east of Eighth street. The Coal Company gave the lot and the Cotton Mill a subscription of \$600. This location was unsuitable and inconvenient, and it was used for only four years, then sold to private parties and for fifty years occupied as a residence, with surrounding vineyards, owned by Conrad Damm. In 1908 it became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Miller (Lulu Gregory), whose modern residence "Hill Crest" utilizes as a foundation part of the original structure's massive rock walls.

The Baptists, elsewhere in Perry County, notable for their continuity of organized existence, seem to have met with little success in forming a society in Cannelton, and the small congregation among whose most active members were Willard Claflin, Terence Wood and W. H. Bicknell disbanded after only a few years of life in the 'fifties. Not until a generation later was any distinct effort made to resume the work, and the society now existing as "The First Baptist Church of Cannelton" was independently organized about 1893, when its present church was built with the Rev. J. B. Solomon, of Hawesville, as its first pastor; Henderson W. Huff and Lewis Yates, the first trustees, chosen June 11, 1893.

On a more permanently successful basis, however, was the St. John's German Evangelical Association formed December 7, 1854, among its charter membership appearing family names still represented in the third generation upon its register. William Lehmann, Albert Lehmann, L—— Lehmann, Martin Bruck, Peter Weber, George Kraus, Gustave Lupp, Jacob Moog, Gottlieb Vogel, Henry Kolb, Christian Rodermund, Philip Fuchs, Christian Schnitzler, Ferdinand Kieser

and others had been holding irregular meetings before this for some time, and the organization was effected by the members themselves who held to the faith, without the leadership of a minister. At the northwest corner of Taylor and Seventh streets a lot was secured and a frame church built in 1855, something like a year before the first resident pastor, the Rev. ——— Ebling, took charge. The work has been prosecuted from the first with unflagging energy and now represents what is perhaps Cannelton's most united and vigorous parochial organization. The high measure of material success attained is shown in the present handsome brick church, with pipe organ and other complete equipment, and the adjoining modern parsonage. Both men and women have spared nothing of personal sacrifice or active labour which could possibly contribute to the result which has been attained.

About the same time a German Methodist society was organized in co-operation with the missionary work which the Rev. Conrad Muth had inaugurated at German Ridge. Among its earliest class members were the families of Henry Vogel, Bennett Wippach, John Johann and Philip Rau, Jr. The latter's father, Philip Rau, Sr., who afterwards joined the son in Perry County, was also an active supporter of the congregation during his unusually long life, and was beyond question the county's oldest citizen when he died in March, 1893, at the age of 103 years, five months and twenty-seven days. He was born at Wuesseck, in the Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, and his great-grandsons keep his memory alive in Cannelton.

The Rev. ——— Heitmyer was the first pastor and in 1855 a frame church was erected on the southeast corner of Taylor and Seventh streets, adjoining which a parsonage was afterward built. The work was maintained continuously until 1914, when the decreased number of members familiar with the German language led to an experimental consolidation with

the English-speaking Methodists, who had built their own frame church in Fifth street, between Taylor and Congress, during the middle 'fifties, the decade of Cannelton's greatest activity in every line, spiritual no less than temporal.

It is the intention, as developments materialize, in due time to effect a formal union and erect a new house of worship befitting the importance of the Methodism as a factor in the community.

Among the numerous English families whom the Cotton Mill and other commercial interests had brought into Cannelton it might naturally be expected that a large proportion were members of the Established Church, and in their adopted land would wish the same sacred offices—kept up through lineal descent in its American branch, the Episcopal Church, whose Book of Common Prayer distinctly declares that "this Church is far from intending to depart from the Church of England in any essential point of doctrine, discipline or worship; or further than local circumstances require." Samuel T. Platt, Edward Dale, James Lees, John Sanderson, John Gordon, Thomas Hay, Robert Payne and Edmund Sharples were among the immigrant churchmen and the Episcopalians of American birth included the Carlile, Huckleby, Smith, Talbot, Brazee, Hubbs, Wilber and Wales families.

The earliest service of the historic Church of Washington, Franklin and so many other distinguished Colonial Americans recorded as held in Cannelton was on August 3, 1851, when the Right Reverend Benjamin Bosworth Smith, Bishop of Kentucky, officiated in the Unitarian Church. The Prayer Book offices set forth for the Seventh Sunday after Trinity were then heard for the first time within the walls where they have since been read for well nigh three-score years.

Bishop Smith, a man of apostolic fervour and scholarly erudition, who lived to attain patriarchal age and was for many years Primate (Presiding Bishop) of the American Church, possessed the broadest mis-

sionary spirit yet could not continue regular work outside the canonical bounds of his own diocese, so through the efforts of Judge Ballard Smith, who represented Perry County in the Legislature of 1855, Cannelton as a field for labour was brought before the notice of the Right Reverend George Upfold, D. D., First Bishop of the Diocese of Indiana (Indianapolis). He visited the place June 17, 1855, and again in the Unitarian Church led Divine Worship as first actual shepherd of the little Episcopalian flock in Cannelton.

Verily the "Mother Church" for Christians of every creed in Cannelton is the time-worn structure once known by no other name than "The Church," and just where the Roman Catholics had organized their local society several years earlier, Bishop Upfold organized in 1857 St. Luke's Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church. On the First Sunday in Advent, December 2, 1860, he administered the apostolic rite of Confirmation to ten candidates, prepared by the Rev. William Louis Githens, who had become the first resident rector during that year. Of this original class Mrs. Christina (Platt) Tichenor is the only survivor (1915), having remained a communicant of the parish for fifty-four years.

The insufficient school facilities of Cannelton in 1855 were painfully evident from the average attendance recorded of only 240 pupils out of 720 enumerated as of school age, a distressing lack of interest largely due to the scattered buildings and the poor sidewalks leading toward them. A lot was given, however, in 1854, by the Coal Company, the half-block now the City Park, between Sixth, Seventh, Clay and Lawrence streets. Its value was \$1,000, and the School Board appropriated \$800 toward a new building, which William P. Beacon took the contract to erect, at \$8 per thousand bricks and \$2.75 per perch for the stone work. His contract failed, but the building was completed in 1856 by contractors Leonard and Johnson.

Among various teachers, meanwhile, had been the

Rev. John Laverty, George Crehore, the Rev. S—— Hart, Jerome Spillman, Misses Sarah Cotton, Mary Anne James, Sarah Kolb and Anna Dow, utilizing such rooms as were here and there available. Henry N. Wales, with Misses Anna Dow and Isabelle McKinley took charge of the town schools during the session of 1856-57, with an enrollment of 235, but an average attendance of only 110. The new brick was finished but unfurnished at this time, yet despite the want of equipment, Sumner Clark and Miss Sarah J. Mason conducted an excellent school in its upper rooms in 1857-58, Allen Milton Ferguson teaching the spring term with them. The Rev. Mr. Laverty, Mr. Wales, Misses Kolb, Gest and Dow were then teaching for the town.

The same year witnessed the founding of the most distinctively high-class educational movement ever undertaken in Cannelton, Franklin Institute, of collegiate character, whose influence was perceptible for many years although the breaking out of the War Between the States caused its career to be unexpectedly brief.

As principal, the Institute was fortunate in having Professor Paul Schuster, A.M., born March 20, 1825, in the historic city of Strasburg, Alsace-Lorraine. He was educated in Belgium at one of the Jesuit colleges, and—with neither criticism nor comment upon the ethical system of that body—it was through the training there received during his novitiate that he came to America at the age of twenty-four, a fluent master of seven languages, Greek, Latin, French, English, Spanish, Italian and German.

Soon after reaching Bardstown, Kentucky, where the Jesuits maintained a school noted in its day, he decided that America offered a wide field for individual liberty of development, and in 1849 was released from the temporary vows of a postulant to enter upon his personal career as an educator.

Cincinnati's large foreign element appealed to his



cosmopolitanism, and his linguistic attainments quickly gained for the young scholar that position he was best qualified to fill, the chair of Ancient and Modern Languages in some of the leading seminaries, both male and female. From thence the impetus of the Swiss Colonization Society in 1858 brought him into Perry County and to Cannelton.

But few if any among institutions of Indiana at the time offered a higher standard of instruction than Franklin Institute, whose object—as set forth in its original prospectus—was “to prepare and enable students to enter the Senior department of Harvard or Yale, or of any of the prominent Southern Universities.”

“While the Ancient and Modern Tongues, Mathematics, Philosophy and the Natural Sciences are efficiently taught,” the prospectus read, “more than ordinary attention is paid to the English, French and German Languages and Literature, Elocution and the Art of Composition. The most ample provision is made in the younger classes for laying the foundations of knowledge sound and strong; while, it is confidently believed, few institutions afford to the higher order of students greater facilities for thorough acquaintance with the finished Models of Literature—the sources of History—the principles of writing and speaking the English and also the French and German languages—the nature and rules of legitimate argument—the proofs of Revelation—the life springs of good taste and good conduct.

“Yet the leading and prominent object of the Tuitionary System is to impart the general intellectual culture and activity which alone deserves the name of Education and enable the possessor to secure that higher improvement which no school can bestow. With a view to this aim at a thorough education, manners and personal habits shall be the objects of unceasing vigilance and care.”

The attitude toward co-education displayed an im-



partiality distinctly ahead of a generation that had not yet come to recognize woman's rightful place in a complete scheme of civilization, since the pamphlet continued: "The experience of several years passed in learning and teaching has convinced the Principal that the meeting of both girls and boys in the same schoolroom while contributing, on the one side, to soften and refine the buoyant spirits of ardent youths, to stimulate their noblest ambition to the utmost exertion of all their mental faculties, and to restrain them continually within the strictest limits of gentlemanly deportment; has, on the other side, a no less effective tendency to promote and exalt in young girls those delicate feelings and enlightened sentiments which develop so spontaneously their natural graces and virtues; qualifying both sexes at the same time to move with ease, propriety and a benignant influence in any sphere of life which it may be their destiny to occupy."

"The teaching of the Gospel," a concluding paragraph declared, "will be respected and predicated as the only rule of conduct for members of either Christian Society or the Human Family at large; but all Sectarian bias, all spirit of proselytism is emphatically repudiated."

For each five months term the tuition rates ranged from \$20 in the collegiate department, through \$15 in the academic, down to \$12.50 in the primary. Ancient Languages were included in the highest grade, but an extra \$5 was the charge for French, German, Spanish or Italian. Nonresident pupils were offered board "in some of the most respectable families of Cannelton at a cost not to exceed, under any circumstances, \$3 per week."

A promise was made that within a year the Principal would receive boarders in his own family at cheaper rates, Professor Schuster having married, September 8, 1858, Amanda, daughter of Henry P. and Mary (Aikens) Brazee, whose homestead "Mulberry

Park" was beside the Ohio River a mile and a half below Cannelton.

This wedding was one among many functions of elegant hospitality which the old mansion witnessed in its prime, and was especially remembered because a supposed supernatural apparition, that for years afterward was reputed to haunt the Cannelton and Tell City river road, had been seen for the first time by some of the reception guests driving from Cannelton. The imaginary spectre was attributed to some phosphorescent gaseous vapour overhanging a low-lying stretch of road. What ever its nature, it was seen by too many responsible parties for its existence to be flatly denied.

The plan for a boarding school, however, was not carried out, Professor Schuster returning some two years later to Cincinnati where in elevating pursuits was spent the remainder of his earthly life, ending October 9, 1905. While national circumstances forbade the anticipated destiny of Franklin Institute, the lofty ideals of its founder find fulfilment today in one of Cincinnati's noblest institutions, the Schuster School of Expression, in Kemper Lane, Walnut Hills, where stands an edifice whose classic beauty but reflects the inspiring personality of its head, Helen Merci Schuster (Mrs. William Warren Martin), the youngest child of Paul and Amanda (Brazee) Schuster. Ranking among the Queen City's most gifted dramatic readers, Mrs. Schuster-Martin's temperamental enthusiasm gives to her instruction a magnetic quality whose value to pupils is truly inestimable.

Professor Paul Schuster's assistant during the first year of Franklin Institute was J. W. Chaddock, and in the summer of 1859 he obtained the services of a young man just graduated from Genesee College (now Syracuse University), Thomas James de la Hunt, valedictorian of his class and also the winner of first honours in oratory.

His birthplace had been the golden vale of Tipper-

ary, Ireland, though of French parentage, the de la Hunt lineage showing a Huguenot family traced back to the city of Nancy in Lorraine in the Sixteenth Century. On the maternal line, however, appear such typically Irish names as FitzGerald and Plunkett, so the two strains of blood combined in an ardently vivacious temperament which adopted with patriotic enthusiasm America, Indiana and Perry County as a chosen home for the remainder of his too-brief life.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### SECOND RELOCATION OF COUNTY-SEAT.

IN THE Cannelton Reporter for Saturday, January 12, 1856, appeared a lengthy editorial in humorous vein headed "A Trip to Rome and Back," which was the opening gun in a well-planned campaign looking toward a second re-location of the county seat. The discomforts of the frequent journeys which all taxpayers and citizens were called on to make to a point of such inconvenient access as Rome were dwelt upon and a "straw vote" was taken at the top of the lofty ridge from whence Troy Township travelers caught their first glimpse of the big ball then surmounting the cupola of the old court-house.

When counted, the pretended vote was announced. "In favour of removing the county seat, including the entire town of Rome (except the jail) to Cannelton, 12. Opposed to the aforesaid movement, 00." Henry P. Brazee, Jr., a clever young resident attorney of Cannelton, fresh from the lap of his Alma Mater, Indiana University, thereupon burst into classic paraphrase:

"While stands the *court-house* Rome shall stand,  
When falls the court-house Rome shall fall,  
And when Rome falls—Look out for a general scampering of office-holders."

During January and February active steps were taken by Cannelton and petitions were circulated all over the county prefatory to the March meeting of the County Commissioners in whom the general law of March, 1855, had vested the conditional power of relocating county seats. Prior to that time a special

enactment had been necessary, with special commissioners.

On March 3, 1856, a formal petition, signed by some 1,350 legal voters praying for the re-location of the county seat at Cannelton, with a deposit of fifty dollars for employment of an architect to prepare plans, specifications and estimates for new county buildings, was duly presented by Charles H. Mason of the Board consisting of Samuel K. Groves, William Hatfield and Wyatt C. Sampson.

After hearing all facts in the case and enduring more or less patiently a heated discussion between the advocates and opponents of the project, the Board finally refused to grant the petition, taking ground that the county voters numbered 2,100 and hence the required two-thirds had not affixed their signatures. This decision of the Board was by Hatfield and Groves, overruling Sampson, who entered his dissent as protesting that the voting population could not exceed 1,800, as the largest vote ever polled in Perry County had been only 1,572, at the election of October, 1854, in a time of intense political excitement. He, therefore, held that the petition had more than a sufficiency of signatures to carry it.

It was shown in Cannelton's favour that out of these 1,572 votes 1,019 had been cast in precincts west of an imaginary line bisecting the county north and south, leaving only 553 in the eastern, or Rome's half of the county. Cannelton was practically as near this meridian as Rome and based her claim on business convenience rather than geographical position, since the actual centre of the county would have to be found in the forest some few miles west of Leopold, a site wholly beyond the bounds of serious consideration.

By curious paradox, Troy, which had herself lost the county seat to Rome in 1818, now fought vigourously to retain it there, against removing it to Cannelton, sixteen miles nearer. Such action was explained by a sentiment of revenge following the defeated scheme

for creating a new county out of portions of Perry and Spencer with Troy as its logical centre, which had been voted down in 1852 by a majority which the Trojans attributed largely to Cannelton.

Rome's opposition was anticipated from the first, no one expecting her citizens to yield voluntarily their pecuniary advantages of residence at the seat of office, but the objections of Troy to a measure calculated to advance her own local interest could not be viewed otherwise than as an exhibition of vindictive antagonism, and bitter denunciations were publicly exchanged in course of the contest. An appeal to the Common Pleas Court was taken but not argued, wiser heads concluding that the subject should remain for a time in abeyance.

During the spring of 1858 another re-location petition was circulated, to which 1451 signatures were obtained, a number greater than two-thirds of the voters even assuming as correct the exaggerated basis of 2,100 fixed by the Commissioners at the former attempt, and an overwhelming majority out of the 1,793 votes cast by Perry County in the presidential election of 1856.

The American Cannel Coal Company pledged a donation of sufficient ground for the erection of all buildings required, and, looking thereto, prayed the vacating of certain portions of Richardson (Eighth) street and Seventh street in Cannelton, by a petition presented June 7 to the Board of Commissioners—William Hatfield, William Elder and James Hardin—at their regular session in Rome. But William S. Lamb—a citizen of Rome—objected to granting this petition—concerning Cannelton exclusively—and although no grounds for objection were alleged the Board held themselves technically bound by the letter of the law and refused to vacate the streets.

Such action made it plain that recourse must be had to higher power outside the county if Cannelton hoped for a fair hearing, and the next step was planned with

a diplomacy purchased through the experience of defeat. Whatever arbitrary decisions the Commissioners might hand down as a Board they could not hope to silence the voice of the people at a general election, so Hamilton Smith, president of the American Cannel Coal Company, a man of superior foresight, was nominated for Representative, Saturday, June 12, 1858, by the Democratic county convention held at Alexander Portwood's in Anderson Township. The Republicans placed no candidate in nomination, regarding local issues as paramount to partisanship, but Dr. George Burton Thompson, one of Rome's lifelong Democrats, came out in opposition to Mr. Smith, showing that the fight was to the death with the citizens of his town.

At the September meeting of the Commissioners, Robert Boyd, of Cannelton, owning property adjacent to the streets asked to be vacated, entered through his attorney, Joshua B. Huckleby, a protest against the refusal of the Board in June. William Hatfield was absent on account of illness, and the other two members, James Hardin and William Elder, quibbled over the alleged technicality that Boyd had not been a signer to the original petition praying vacation of the public streets. Hardin held this to be essential but Elder differed materially from him, so there was no alternative but to pass the whole matter until the next meeting of the Board in December. The Rome people publicly declared their insistence upon every right the law could give them, and that the county seat should never be removed save under strictest statutory interpretation.

While Cannelton's astute politicians persistently announced that re-location was not a figure in the autumn campaign, it was nevertheless a deeply underlying issue and was universally recognized as such. For reasons best known to himself and his followers, Doctor Thompson withdrew from the canvass one week before election day, so on October 12, Hamilton Smith received 1,222 out of 1,694 ballots that were



cast. John C. Shoemaker's majority for joint-Senator was 219 over his opponent, David T. Laird, of Rockport.

Governor Willard having called a special session of General Assembly for consideration of important matters, the Legislature convened on November 20. On Monday, December 13, Hamilton Smith introduced House Bill No. 26, supplementary to Act approved March 2, 1855, providing for re-location of county seats, public highways, etc. His bill provided for re-location of county seats where lands and court-houses had been donated and petitions filed.

In his speech he explained that the measure, while in form of a general law, was for a specific purpose affecting Perry County only and was virtually an emergency case. He proceeded to set forth how during the year the large number of foreign immigrants settling in the county had built up a new community, so that the conveyances of property had multiplied to an extraordinary degree. Within a few months the examination and recording of some thirteen or fourteen hundred deeds to lots in Tell City alone would become necessary, and with the county seat at a distance of twenty miles from the centre of population the almost unanimous wish of the people favoured re-location of the court-house at Cannelton. More than two-thirds of the voters had thus petitioned, but since existing laws would not permit such a change he besought all reasonable expedition in passing the bill as introduced. After reference to a committee of five the bill was reported favourably December 22, passed and signed by Governor Willard, the news reaching Cannelton on Christmas Eve.

A public meeting was held Monday evening, December 26, in the brick schoolhouse in Sixth Street, Joshua B. Huckleby being chosen chairman and Paul Schuster, secretary. An address by Hamilton Smith then presented the exact status of the situation. Through his efforts and the special exertions of his

brother, Judge Ballard Smith, the bill, which had passed the Legislature, made it necessary for the Cannelton people to build fire-proof offices, a good jail, and 'to fit up the contemplated court-house for the purpose.' On behalf of the Coal Company he agreed to erect four fire-proof offices in exchange for a former donation made for the purpose of facilitating re-location, a transaction already foreseen and provided for by the enactment. For building the jail and repairing the intended court-house the act required a cash deposit of \$3,500 in the hands of the County Treasurer before the next regular meeting of the Commissioners. It, therefore, behooved the citizens to busy themselves without delay in raising this amount, toward which end committees were appointed for each of the six wards, their instructions being to deposit the money with the County Treasurer in sums of \$100 as fast as collected.

Subscriptions at first came in slowly and an apparent indifference seemed to exist among sundry citizens at the very moment when the coveted prize was within their grasp. A delegation from Rome, William S. Lamb, George Burton Thompson and George Perry De Weese, betook themselves to Indianapolis for strenuous lobby work before the regular session of the Legislature. Their scheme was to procure amendments to the act, raising the cash donation to \$6,000 and requiring a revision of all signatures on the petition. Furthermore, they re-opened the once-tried question of organizing a new county, which, if done, would forever settle adversely any claim of Cannelton for the court-house by placing it on the very boundary line between the old and new counties. Some influential aid was enlisted in this desperate move to defeat re-location, and to the women of Cannelton must be accredited the final checkmate ensuring victory.

Signed "Many Ladies" a call was published for a meeting at the home of Mrs. Paul Schuster (Amanda Brazee) on Monday, January 17, 1859, for discussing

plans to raise funds toward the aid of re-location, and the result was a three days' Fair, held January 24, 25 and 26 in Mozart Hall. This entertainment was typical of many in its period. Monday evening, a lottery with many valuable prizes, a post-office, a wheel of fortune revealing the future, fancy tables for needlework, ice cream and confectionery, besides an elaborate supper of substantials and delicacies. Tuesday evening the Fair continued, with a special concert programme at nine o'clock, and a noted professional fortune-teller, Madame L'Estrange. On Wednesday night a ball, with supper, brought the series to a gay climax and the net result of \$610.47 was turned over to the re-location fund, with feminine compliments. Spurred to final effort, the balance of the amount was raised by the men inside a fortnight.

Rome's opposition, however, had not spent itself. On Monday, March 8, 1859, the Cannelton committee, John James Key, William P. Beacon and Joseph M. Gest, made the final payment to the County Treasurer, who certified the fact before the Commissioners then in regular session. Judge Ballard Smith then moved that bids for building jail and re-modeling court-house be opened for consideration, which was assented to by the Board although actively contested by Rome's counsel, James C. Veatch, of Rockport. While the Commissioners' action virtually settled, so far as in their power, the legality of the re-location enactment, an appeal was taken by the opposition, Elijah B. Huckleby and George P. De Weese giving bond in the sum of \$6,000, with ample security, to prosecute the appeal before the May Circuit Court. Thus again, was the will of the majority thwarted for a time by a few stubbornly unyielding opponents holding with bull-dog tenacity to their cause.

At this term Judge Ballard Smith, whom his contemporaries pronounced one of the most polished and brilliant men ever occupying the bench of the Third Circuit, but who had declined to stand for re-election,

was succeeded by Judge M. F. Burke, of Daviess County. Of Irish parentage, he possessed many sterling qualities of his race, a ready mind, abundant resource, free and impetuous eloquence. His promptness of decision received favourable comment in all cases during his short term of service, and the most important point adjudicated in the first term he held in Perry County was the re-location issue. The appeal of Elijah B. Huckleby *et al* vs. Ballard Smith *et al*, was dismissed, the court ruling that no appeal might be taken from the interlocutory action of the Commissioners, thus officially closing an incident most memorable.

In June contracts were let, to William P. Beacon for building the jail at a cost of \$2,000, and to William McKinley, Sr., for re-modeling the school-house at \$435; Eben Dow having prepared the plans at a fee of \$10; the Coal Company making their own arrangements for the stone office building. These operations consumed the summer and in the autumn Charles H. Mason,—Joseph M. Gest superintending work—as an appointed committee, purchased all furniture and fittings.

They, with others, appeared December 7, in Rome, before the Commissioners in session, James Hardin, Joseph Cassidy and Michael Dusch, filing their detailed report which showed full compliance with every requirement of the act. Upon motion of Ballard Smith, the Board passed an order directing immediate removal of the records to Cannelton and appointing William P. Beacon to superintend the same. Some slight delay occurred through petition from Rome to have immediate transfer of the county property there to a board of seminary trustees, Elijah B. Huckleby, John C. Shoemaker and Job Hatfield, but the Commissioners deferred such action until their March session, holding that the transfer could not legally be made until the county seat was removed *de facto*.

Daniel L. Armstrong, Auditor; Joseph M. Gest,

Clerk; Henry Groves, Recorder; Job Hatfield, Treasurer; and George W. Patterson, Sheriff, thereupon removed all their respective records, books, papers and furniture, with the assistance of William P. Beacon, to a barge at the Rome landing, towed by the steamer Wave, which brought all to Cannelton on Thursday, December 7, 1859, and when safely lodged in the new buildings re-location became an accomplished fact.

The first term of court held in Cannelton convened Tuesday morning, January 3, 1860, Judge Ballard Smith presiding pro tem in the absence of Judge Lemueu Q. De Bruler, who did not arrive until the afternoon. The first motion was by Charles H. Mason, for the admission of William McKinley, Jr., to the bar. That night was celebrated by a "Perry County Ball and Supper," given in Mozart Hall by the Ladies of Cannelton—according to an original invitation still in existence—"on the occasion of holding the first court at the new county seat." Five hundred people were reported by the following week's paper as having participated in the gaiety which demonstrated universal rejoicing over a victory hard-fought and long-delayed, in which Cannelton's high-minded women were a factor of no slight importance.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### COUNTY BANKS, NEWSPAPER CHANGES, ETC.

THE population of Cannelton, which in August, 1849, numbered 812 souls by actual count of a local census taker, had more than doubled by the spring of 1851, when a second enumeration showed over 1,600 residents, of whom 408 were of school age. Two sawmills, the coal mines and cotton mill were in active operation, and in the autumn of that year the first foundry and machine establishment opened its doors, James Lees, Samuel T. Platt, George C. Beebe, A. H. Cole and J. F. Abdell forming the company. It continued, through many changes of management, for nearly half a century, its last owners being under the firm title of James Lees' Sons.

James Lees, for many years a valuable citizen, was born July 15, 1824, in Ireland though of purely English parentage, his father, John Lees, being a soldier in the Royal Army and having received a medal of honour (yet in possession of his descendants) for service under Wellington in the battle of Waterloo. Brought with the regiment to British America when four years of age, he returned when twelve years old to England, where he completed his school education. In 1842 he entered on the machinist's trade in Dukinfield, Cheshire, (a few miles from the city of Manchester), where April 18, 1849, he married Mary Sharples, coming soon afterward to the United States.

A year was spent in the eastern states, and in the autumn of 1850 he was placed in charge of the Cannelton Cotton Mills' repair shops. This position he filled until made engineer-in-chief, August, 1860, remaining such for a quarter of a century. Meanwhile he had

made other investments which enabled him to retire from active labour and, while retaining supervision of the extensive works bearing his name, to enjoy in his closing years that quiet ease of a well-ordered home so dear to the English temperament of which he was a typical example.

The growth of the community made it evident that legal control was necessary for maintaining proper order, so in September, 1852, a petition signed by two-thirds of the voters, asking that the place be incorporated, was presented to Board of Commissioners by Burwell B. Lea. An election for deciding the question was held on September 18, 1852, when 171 votes were cast, with a result favourable to incorporation. Five trustees were chosen from the wards into which the town had been divided; William Knights, Dwight Newcomb, Frederick Boyd, Hamilton Smith and William P. Beacon.

The Board met for organization September 28, at the Coal Company's office, when Frederick Boyd was appointed Treasurer and John L. Jones, Jr., Clerk. Later in the autumn the usual town ordinances were adopted and published.

A volunteer fire company was organized under the name "Torrent No. I," for whose benefit \$150 was appropriated providing that not less than twenty men enlisted and that the Indiana Cotton Mills furnished the engine and apparatus. All conditions were complied with, and the original engine house, built in Washington street on the mill premises, remained in use until the summer of 1915, when the property was removed to other quarters and the alarm bell placed on the City Hall.

In January, 1853, Joshua B. Huckleby was appointed town clerk; Daniel Curry, assessor; and James P. McGregor, marshal. Hamilton Smith was authorized to erect a corporation lock-up, or calaboose, and in February William A. Wandell was chosen town attorney. Hamilton Smith, Frederick Boyd and William H.



Mason became the first board of school trustees, and an ordinance was passed requiring the treasurer and marshal to receive only specie in payment of obligations due the town.

The degree of growth and material prosperity which the early 'fifties witnessed in Cannelton naturally drew wide attention to its financial possibilities, so that 1854 saw the establishment of the Perry County Bank, the first to carry on actual operations in the county, although among the fourteen branches planned for the Vincennes State Bank, chartered by the Territorial Legislature sitting in 1814 at Corydon and confirmed under the Constitution of 1816, Troy was designated as the seat of one such bank.

This system was well planned and its depositories excellently distributed, each to serve three counties, but there was not enough money in all Indiana to finance the scheme. A subscription equalling some \$30 per capita would have been required merely to float the stock which the state reserved for itself, so only three branches—at Corydon, Vevay and Brookville—were ever opened.

Some of the notes issued by the Perry County Bank are yet in existence, preserved as mere curios without monetary value. Nearly if not all the capital stock of \$100,000 was owned by W. H. Marston, an Eastern capitalist who was president; with R. R. Hunt, vice-president, and L. A. Smith, cashier. An office was rented in the large hotel building and for about one year a general banking business was carried on, receiving deposits, discounting notes, buying and selling exchange. It was also a bank of issue, and its printed semi-annual statement showed some \$70,000 worth of bills put into circulation, probably an issue made elsewhere before removal of their capital to Cannelton.

Four years later, in the spring of 1858, another attempt was made by James M. Monroe and Levi Scobey, both strangers, who engaged quarters for a business under the style "Orleans Bank of Cannelton," whereof

they were respectively president and cashier, with an alleged capital of \$20,000. Many banks appear to have been undertaken by these men for the purpose of circulating 'wild-cat' issues. A total of near \$14,000 is said to have been put out by these branches and several thousand dollars worth from Cannelton were disposed of in the East, eventually coming back for a redemption which was never contemplated.

Although Monroe and Scobey shrewdly published a pretended official bank-bill detector, wherein their own issues were rated at three per cent discount, their institution gained no confidence from the start, so at the expiration of the month for which quarters had been engaged, the projectors (after selling their safe and office fixtures) decamped for fresh fields and pastures new.

The earliest burying ground in Cannelton was on the rising ground to the eastward of Casselberry Creek's original course, close to the old log schoolhouse, but that it was inadequate for growth soon became apparent and other plans were made. In January, 1854, a new organization was effected under the name Cliff Cemetery Association, with Francis Y. Carlile, Hamilton Smith, Charles H. Mason, John James Key, John Mason, William P. Beacon, Jacob B. Maynard, William McKinley, Sr., George Minto, Sr., Samuel T. Platt, Ballard Smith, Frederick Boyd, Joseph H. Kolb, Joseph Whittaker, George Crehore, James A. Burkett, George C. Beebe and Dr. Charles L. Soyey as its first members.

A donation of land in extent between seven and eight acres, crowning the lofty cliffs east of town when its appropriate name was derived, was made by the American Cannel Coal Company and suitably laid out by Hamilton Smith, Jr. For some years, however, there was no good road leading up the hill and occasional interments were still made in the old graveyard. After its final disuse as such, the title reverted to the Coal Company, and a portion of the ground near

the corner of Fourth and Congress streets was given in 1893 to the Baptists, who erected their church edifice thereon. That it probably covers some of the earliest graves was shown in the summer of 1915, when in excavating for a new water conduit to the baptistery pool a metallic casket of ponderous weight and elaborate design was unearthed. That it must have contained the remains of some well-to-do person was evident, as the body was that of a man clad in expensive garb of old-time fashion, but no means of identification presented themselves, though countless theories were advanced, so the coffin was again buried near the same spot.

Farther south along Fourth street another part of the grounds was given, in 1907, to the African Methodists, in exchange for the site at Fourth and Adams streets originally owned by the Presbyterians, and in the rear of the church and parsonage removed thither, a few crumbling monuments and leaning markers still indicate where once 'the rude forefathers of the hamlet slept.' Many ailanthus ("Heaven") trees, long ago regarded as particularly desirable for ornamental planting, remain in token that the spot was once tended by careful hands, but most of the bodies were removed to the hill during the 'sixties.

The Cliff Cemetery Association was reorganized about 1869-70 by the lot owners, who elected a managing board of trustees, one from each of the Protestant congregations in Cannelton. Additional ground was granted them by the Coal Company, and surveyed to coincide with the first avenues and walks. When the first St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was built in 1850 in Seventh street at the head of Madison, its churchyard was used as "God's Acre," but soon became insufficient and a new cemetery tract, still in use and later enlarged, was given in 1854, to the congregation, situate on the ridge road leading past Cliff Cemetery, a quarter-mile farther from town.

The decade of the 'fifties witnessed many organiza-

tions in Cannelton and the county at large;—fire companies, hose, hook-and-ladder companies, etc., temperance and benevolent societies, most of which lasted only a few years.

While itself of brief duration, one to be mentioned should be the Perry County Medical Society, the first of its kind, formed in response to a call published May 27, 1854, in the Cannelton Reporter. On the appointed day, Doctor Clark, of Cannelton, was chosen president; Doctor Gage, of Troy, secretary; Doctors Gest, Soyez and Sugg, a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws for the society. This, apparently, was the extent of its activity, as nothing further concerning it is anywhere on record, and other similar organizations of later dates were equally temporary.

One known as the General Council of Physicians of Perry County existed during the middle 'sixties, and in November, 1881, the Perry Medical Association was formed. Its officers were J. M. Butler, president; Mathias M. Howard, vice-president; J. R. Webb, secretary; L. B. Lucas, treasurer; A. J. Smith, Charles M. Brucker and Isaac Lucas, censors. Jesse D. Bacon and J. W. Lucas were also members.

Dr. Harmon Strong Clark was easily Cannelton's first leading physician, an eminently successful practitioner and a man of notable personality whose influence and example were powerfully felt in building up all that made a good community. Born, May 26, 1820, at Huntsburg, Geauga County, Ohio, he was the son of Abner and Olive (Strong) Clark, both of whom sprang from old Colonial families of Massachusetts, running back to the day of the "Mayflower" and the Pilgrim Fathers, and still represented in the original homesteads.

After attaining his twenty-first birthday he came into Hancock County, Kentucky, where he taught three terms of school, meanwhile studying medicine for two years with Doctor Stopp, of Lewisport. The new community in Indiana which was growing up on

the site of old Coal Haven offered a promising field for a young medical man, hence he located at Cannelton on Sunday, June 20, 1847. As early as 1849 he had a drug store in connection with his practice and afterward expanded this by adding a large general store which met with handsome financial success, besides another in Troy where he also owned a large pork-packing house.

November 3, 1850, he married Hester Ann Rogers, daughter of Dr. Robert G. and Louisa (Protzman) Cotton, of Troy, and a while later they established their home in the "Willow Cottage" formerly owned by James Boyd on the river front at Cannelton. Three children were born to them, of whom a son and a daughter survive, and in the same house Dr. Clark's lamented death occurred May 5, 1863. His funeral, conducted by the Masonic order of which he was a leading member, was one of the largest ever in Cannelton, a spontaneous tribute of esteem to one of her foremost citizens.

A professional contemporary, some few years Doctor Clark's junior yet whose early career had been more thrillingly picturesque, was Dr. Magnus Brucker who located in 1849 at Troy. Born September 6, 1828, at Haslach, in Kinzigthale, in Baden, he prepared for college at famous "alt Heidelberg" and was graduated from the French University of Strasburg in Alsace-Lorraine. The enthusiasm of youth and patriotism enlisted him in the rebellion of 1848, and when the revolutionists were put down he came by way of Italy as a refugee to America.

From the beginning of his practice in Troy success seemed to wait upon him, and he was serving his adopted county as representative in the Legislature of 1861 when war again broke about him. Immediately enlisting as Regimental Surgeon in the Twenty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry, he served out his full time with patriotic devotion to the cause he had espoused. The appreciative admiration of Perry

County's citizens took form in electing him again in 1866 to the same office he had unselfishly quitted for the battle-field in 1861. He lived in the county until his death October 23, 1874, a man of professional eminence and personal nobility.

## CHAPTER XIX

### RIVER TRAFFIC AND FAMOUS STEAMBOATS

FOR three-quarters of a century Perry County's only commercial connection with the outside world was by means of river transportation, and steamboating on the Ohio reached its zenith between 1850 and 1860. The magnitude it attained seems fairly incredible now, when only occasional sternwheelers of moderate capacity are seen, varied by powerful towboats from Pittsburg, or countless small gasoline craft. Of such Oriental luxury was the exterior and interior of many famous steamers in the olden time that detailed description might be reckoned an Arabian Nights' tale.

A lithographed drawing of Cannelton about 1850, showing six steamboats in sight at once, is not to be regarded as an artist's exaggeration, since not less than two-score packets were in regular trades below the Falls, passing Cannelton at stated intervals, and from eight to eighteen vessels lying at the landing at the same time was an ordinary occurrence at Louisville.

The Belle Key, shown in the picture of Cannelton, was a popular New Orleans liner out of Louisville where her owner and master, Captain Key, resided. Many men then commanded their own boats, just as at sea, and as the enlarged canal around the Falls was not yet in operation, Louisville was a point of portage between upper and lower river freight or passengers. At a good stage of water boats went over the Falls with perfect safety, but during a part of each year Portland was the practical head of navigation and a scene of amazing activity.

One trip of the Belle Key from Louisville to New



Orleans became historic in steamboat annals from the circumstance that every passenger and the last pound of freight was booked clear through, absolutely no way business having been accepted.

Captain Key had arrived from the South to find at Louisville two boats ahead of him, loading to leave for New Orleans within the next thirty-six hours. As another boat was right behind him, he considered that his chances were small for a profitable trip, so decided, after consulting with his agent, to make a swift run down and bring everything he could carry on his upward trip, expecting to find no other boats in the way at New Orleans.

Announcements were immediately posted in all hotels and public places that the Belle Key would leave at 5 p. m. without any way freight, but with all the passengers she could get, promising to put them in New Orleans inside of five days. When noised about town, hurried dray-loads of freight for New Orleans commenced rolling down the levee, besides supply wagons bearing all kinds of stores. Passengers already booked for the other laden steamers cancelled their reservations, engaging staterooms on the Belle Key, so that all was bustle on the wharf.

Many predictions of failure were uttered, as such a thing as a New Orleans boat leaving without a big freight cargo was unprecedented. But the captain became only more sanguine, arguing that a rising river and powerful current gave him great advantage for the entire distance, because if he did not lose time by accident or bad weather he would be moving at small expense compared with feeding passengers and burning fuel against the bank.

With over a hundred tons of freight and her cabin full of long-distance passengers, the Key left on time, cheers and whistles saluting her departure "flying light" in shipping parlance. All the way down she was reported as "splitting the river wide open." and her commander's optimism was fully justified. He not

only made a trip unequalled in speed for the distance, but found no other Louisville boat in harbour at the Crescent City, so got all the freight he could stem the Mississippi with coming north, and his subsequent trips south were always with a cabin-load of contented passengers.

In the spring of 1853 the Reindeer, built a year before by Captain Montgomery for the New Orleans trade, was placed in line between Louisville and St. Louis, passing Cannelton on her down trip Thursday evening, and on Tuesday morning going up. She was a swift vessel, her hull a model of symmetry and the upper works tinselled with elaborate scroll-work both inside and out.

On all the boats stopping at the Cannelton wharf for coal or other business it was a custom among the passengers to take advantage of the delay by walking about the town, so that many public individuals of national importance were mentioned from time to time in the local paper as having stopped off from such and such a boat. Henry Clay honoured the village April 18, 1851, while the Peytona was briefly at the landing. Julia Dean, described as "a good-looking popular actress," whose name is all but forgotten, was on board the Fashion, May 7, 1852.

James E. Murdock, the masterly tragedian and Shakspearean reader, was another tourist-visitor later, while the somewhat notorious Lola Montes, the beautiful Spaniard whose liaison with the King of Bavaria had been flagrantly flaunted all over Europe, attracted her usual attention when in Cannelton on St. Patrick's Day, 1853. She was en route to St. Louis to appear on the stage and had been put off the Eclipse some few days before for refusing to take her meals with the other passengers, sending instead her maid and lapdog to occupy the seat reserved for her at Captain Sturgeon's table.

Just one year later, March 16, 1854, the Reindeer was again at Cannelton bound for St. Louis when both flues

of her starboard boiler exploded as she was rounding out into the river from Boyd's wharfboat about ten o'clock at night. The report of the explosion was most startling and caused a general rush of citizens to the scene, which was at once frightful and heartrending. Despite the cries for help and the harrowing screams of the scalded sufferers, immediate assistance could not be rendered, as the high stage of water made it hazardous to approach the crippled steamer in small boats.

The Europa, however, chanced to be coming up and succeeded in getting the Reindeer under control, landing her some distance below. Citizens and physicians from both Cannelton and Hawesville hastened to the relief of the victims, most of whom were deck passengers and members of the boat's crew. Everything possible was done to alleviate the agony of the wounded, but all were fearfully injured, some having arms or legs broken, besides terrible burns, and the flesh of some was so scalded that it literally fell from the bones in attempting to remove their clothing.

Toward morning the steamer Magnolia took the Reindeer across to Hawesville, where on the following day the bodies of the deceased were given reverent interment in one huge grave which is still pointed out in the Hawesville cemetery. Inspection which followed developed the fact that pure lead had been used in the flues instead of the alloy prescribed by government regulations.

Another accident, less fatal but far more spectacular, occurred at one o'clock in the morning of Saturday, March 30, 1860, when the steamer Kate May took fire at the Cannelton landing and burned to the water's edge. She was bound for Cincinnati on her return trip from the Arkansas River, under command of Captain J. L. Bruce, and carried among her cargo seven hundred bales of cotton, a part of which was consigned to the Indiana Cotton Mills. ,

The officers and crew were all forward, engaged in

taking two coal flats in tow when the fire, which had originated in the under tier of bales, was discovered. The flames spread with such rapidity around the stairways it became evident that efforts to save the boat would be only desperate folly, so Captain Bruce hastened to arouse the imperiled passengers, directing them to means of escape. His example of coolness and courage prevented any disorder, and the only life lost was that of the negro chambermaid. She had been one of the earliest awakened in the cabin, but was seen running to the forward end of the boat, whence it was supposed that she became terrified at the flames and leaped overboard into the water, thus drowning, unobserved. But little baggage was saved and the Cannelton people proved their liberal kindness by making up to the passengers much that they had lost in the way of clothes and other personal belongings.

Twenty-four sidewheelers forming the Louisville and New Orleans "Lightning" Line during the fifties should be named: The A. L. Shotwell, Antelope, Atlantic, Autocrat, Baltic, B. J. Adams, Chancellor, Diana, Eclipse, E. H. Fairchild, Empress, Fanny Bullitt, Fashion, H. D. Newcomb, James Montgomery, John Raine, Louisville, Magenta, Peytona, Robert J. Ward, T. C. Twitchell, Uncle Sam, Virginia and Woodford. Not one of these cost less than \$200,000, yet all were marvellous money makers. The Fanny Bullitt, built at a cost of \$210,000, nevertheless paid for herself during the first four months and before her career was ended by dismantling had earned her price fourteen and one-half times.

Greatest and grandest of all craft ever afloat on western waters was the Eclipse, whose name accurately indicated her character. Built in 1851-52 in New Albany, at a cost of \$375,000, she passed Cannelton March 24, 1852, on her maiden trip to New Orleans, and her like had never been seen, nor will it be again beheld.

In mere dimensions she excelled all records, a hull

363 feet long, waterwheels 42 feet in diameter, with 14 foot buckets, sustained by shafts of 22-inch diameter, weighing 13 tons each. Two large engines, of 36-inch cylinders with 11 foot stroke, generated the motive power, besides four smaller engines, for hoisting freight and pumping water. Eight large boilers were 32½ feet in length by 42 inches diameter, besides seven cylinder boilers 35 feet by 12 inches. Her smokestacks measured a diameter of 85 inches and towered 86 feet above the hurricane deck.

The first passengers' cabin extended a length of 300 feet, and it was here that money had been squandered with lavishness unparalleled. Five thousand dollars was spent on the carpet alone, woven in Brussels from original designs and specifications sent from New Albany while the boat was being built. This carpet consisted of two immense rugs the full width of the cabin, extending fore and aft from the central gangway and woven with eyelets by which they could be buttoned down at the edges and readily lifted for cleaning.

Every piece of chinaware was made from special patterns by the Haviland potteries at Limoges, the smaller plates, cups and saucers bearing the initial "E" in gold near the edge, while the larger dishes were marked "Eclipse" in gilded letters. A flying golden eagle surmounted this as a crest upon the tall ware such as tureens, comport dishes and pitchers. The silver was all sterling, made to special order and engraved with name in ornate script, while all the cutlery and service was of the same costly description. Added to all this, the mere goldleaf used in decoration when building the boat amounted to \$4,875, a single detail of the extravagance displayed throughout.

One hundred and twenty people made up the full crew in every capacity, under command of Captain E. T. Sturgeon, so the passengers were literally on a floating hotel, with servants trained to anticipate every wish. Among the officers for several seasons was a Perry County man, Martin Frank, then in his early

twenties, who had spent six years in flatboating between his birthplace (Harrison County) and New Orleans, thus acquiring an intimate knowledge of both the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This experience, added to three years (1857-60) on board the Eclipse, made him a valuable auxiliary in the Federal gunboat service which he entered in 1861, after one year of farm life in Perry County, following his marriage with Amanda E. Hoyne, of Tobin Township. He was present at the taking of Fort Donelson, at the surrender of Vicksburg, and his boat was near when Arkansas Post fell, having carried despatches to General Grant. The close of the war also terminated his career as pilot and he returned to farming, which he followed with financial success for many years until ready to retire from active life, then living in Cannelton until his death, in March, 1913.

Besides the all-surpassing splendour of her equipment, the Eclipse was the swiftest long-distance boat ever in the Mississippi Valley, and as such her record remains unbroken, disregarding numerous spurt records where fast steamers made extraordinary time over short courses. In 1853 occurred the memorable speed contest between the Eclipse and the A. L. Shotwell, the former running from the foot of Canal Street, New Orleans, to the Portland wharf, Louisville, in four days, nine hours and twenty minutes, the latter's time being exactly one hour longer. This race was even more thrilling than the famous contest of 1870 between the Robert E. Lee and Natchez, from New Orleans to Saint Louis, as the Eclipse and Shotwell were frequently in plain sight of each other for miles at a time, and thousands of dollars changed hands on the result.

An old ledger shows that on one trip during the spring of 1858 the bar receipts of the Eclipse were \$2,302.20, so it is probable the poker games must have been for fabulous stakes, as twelve coal-boat pilots were on their way back to Pittsburg as passengers. A net profit of \$6,621.10 on freight carried the same trip

is also shown by the same record-book, the profit for passengers amounting to \$414.60.

Reading the menu of an ordinary day's dinner shows where the money went, since Lucullus himself could only with difficulty have designed a more elaborate banquet than one beginning with ox-tail soup, going through barbecued bass and sheepshead to six varieties of boiled and three of cold spiced meats, with choice of ten side-dishes, before the actual meat course was reached.

Eight kinds of roast were then offered, and under the head of "Green" appears the modest statement, "All Vegetables of the Season." The dessert is yet more bewildering with seven different pies, four puddings, four creams, blanc-mange, custard, charlotte russe, sherbets, two "frozettes," and a delicacy not known today called "charlexaice"; to say nothing of five cakes, six kinds of fruit, three of nuts, claret and white wines and coffee.

Charles Dickens unfortunately visited America some years too early to enjoy a voyage aboard the Eclipse, else he would scarcely have described a steamboat dinner on the Ohio River as "a collation of funeral baked meats."

In the Saint Louis trade also were several very fine, fast boats, such as the Reindeer, Alvin Adams, Fashion, Fawn and two well-known sister steamers, the Northerner and the Southerner, both low-pressure and thus notable in their class, comparatively few of the kind proving successful, although the Indiana and Richmond were two other and later examples.

In the regular Memphis trade the Commercial was for years a particular local favourite because commanded by a Cannelton man, Captain Samuel Archer. His boat was noted during the War Between the States as the first one ever flying the Confederate flag clear from Memphis into the port of Louisville. Needless to say, this act of daring was not often repeated, nor



copied by others, yet Captain Archer and his wife (Burnetta Mason) remained ardent Southern sympathizers.

Quinine, worth its weight in gold and contraband besides, was smuggled through the lines in a rag doll, as belonging to their daughter, Mollie Archer (Mrs. Charles Schmuck, later Mrs. Hofmeister), who accompanied her parents on several trips to Memphis, and the hem of her dress skirt was likewise laden with the priceless drug.

Nothing else recalls to the present generation the early glory of river days so vividly as the floating theatres which are still an important summer amusement feature to all small towns along the Ohio. Dan Rice, the famous clown and circus manager, claimed to have been the pioneer in the floating show business, a Thespian Daniel Boone blazing the trail for a line of followers whose end is not yet in sight sixty years afterward.

Before many river points were accessible by rail the circus traveled from town to town by boat, pitching its tents at some convenient spot near the river bank. An idea occurred to Rice that much time and needless labour was daily wasted setting tents and striking canvas, so he evolved and executed a plan of lashing together several flat-bottomed coal-barges, erecting his tent thereon with ring and tiers of seats just as on land, so that the same performance could be given. Instant success attended the first cruise of the odd craft.

"Excelsior," the blind white horse, displayed his marvellous education by answering questions, counting numbers, doing "sums" in addition or subtraction; "Nellie," the jumping mare; "Bravo" and "Bonita," the chariot pair, all careened about the forty-foot arena as if its tanbark were spread upon Mother Earth. Annual trips were long continued, or until Rice's advancing years and failing health compelled abandon-

ment of his business, which he could no longer manage in person.

Another aggregation, the "Floating Palace," won even greater notoriety from the circumstance that it was the first to use illuminating gas on the river. Spaulding and Rogers were its owners and the theatre was towed by the steamer James Raymond, on board which the gas was generated. Pipes connected the two crafts, carrying the gas to great chandeliers suspended over the circus ring, in the menagerie department, dressing rooms and box office, as well as lighting the steamboat's cabin.

Elephants, giraffes, ostriches, polar bears, all mingled in the display; a collection of wax figures rivalled Madame Tussaud's exhibit in London; a panoramic view of the world was unrolled and over a hundred other oil paintings were on view, with relics of Egypt, Herculaneum and Pompeii; a calliope with several octaves' range discoursed melodies then popular, with an accompaniment of sweet bells—happily, not "out of tune"; an alleged "Polish Refugee," Madame Olinza, performed "graceful, thrilling and terrific feats upon a tight-rope stretched at dizzy height in mid-air," meanwhile "playing exquisitely the Cornet-à-piston;" an "incomparable genius," Mr. S. K. G. Nellis, who had "appeared with great *éclat* before the crowned heads and nobility of Europe," now wrote letters, shot bows and arrows, loaded and discharged pistols, played on the accordeon and violincello, cut out valentines and silhouettes, all

### "WITH HIS TOES ALONE."

Specimens of his last named dexterity are yet to be seen, and a portrait cut from life of Anthony Crockett, a nephew to "Davy" Crockett, which Nellis had cut out July 12, 1856, was shown at a Woman's Club loan exhibit at Hawesville in the spring of 1915.

But even more wonderful than animals, acrobats, or horseback riders jumping through tissue-paper covered hoops was the novel illuminant whereby these sights were beheld, and it is an established fact that many thousands of people down the Ohio Valley gazed on a burning gas-jet for the first time in their lives on board Spaulding and Rogers' Floating Palace.

## CHAPTER XX

### SWISS COLONIZATION SOCIETY AT TELL CITY

AMONG all the countries of Europe none can boast a prouder heritage of history than little Switzerland, and none has shared with America a finer strain of national blood than that which the gallant Republic of the Old World sent across the Atlantic to mingle with the growing Republic of the New World.

As early as 1796 Jean Jacques Dufour, a Switzer from the Canton de Vaud, explored the Ohio River all along the boundary line of Indiana, seeking a suitable location for the future homes of himself, his four brothers, three sisters and some few associates. Pleased with the almost mountainous hills coming close to the river which reflected them like his own Alpine lakes, he fixed upon a site fifty-five miles west of Cincinnati, between Plum and Indian Creeks, where by special act of Congress he was permitted to purchase four sections of land at the price of \$2 an acre.

In May, 1801, the new settlers landed at Norfolk, Virginia, coming thence to Indiana by way of Lexington, Kentucky, where two years were spent in adjusting themselves to pioneer conditions before taking up actual residence upon their new lands. These were situated in what was then Dearborn County, but the colony increased to such a degree that in the autumn of 1814 a petition was laid before the Territorial Legislature praying for a new county, which was accordingly organized under the appropriate title of Switzerland, further sentiment bestowing upon its county seat the harmonious name of Vevay.

Two natives of Vevay, the Eggleston brothers—Edward and George Cary—have given to literature accu-

rate word-pictures of these early Switzers and their mingling with the other settlers who came from various American states to form a community yet retaining many quaintly individual characteristics, but no writer has yet done full justice, either in fiction or serious history to the movement which established, half a century later, in Perry County a Swiss colony upon a larger scale with more definite plans, whose accomplishment attained a fuller measure of permanent success.

Geographical conditions cause the Swiss race to feel strongly the influence of the three other nations—France, Italy and Germany—which are immediately adjacent, and just as the family names Dufour, Dumont, Thiébaud, Duprez and others found in Switzerland County plainly show their Vaudois origin, the earliest Switzers of Perry County bore names relatively Teutonic in their suggestiveness and from Canton Schwyz, near storied Lake Lucerne, came Charles Steinauer, a factor of prime importance in the Swiss Colonization Society which was organized November 16, 1856, at Cincinnati.

Although the very first minutes of the society are missing, its purpose appears to have been to furnish mutual aid in founding homes and business enterprises in what was then known as "The West," and under the constitution adopted December 14, 1856, Professor J. C. Christin became the first President; Charles Steinauer, Recording Secretary; Richard Luethy, Corresponding Secretary, and J. Goldenberg, Treasurer.

A time-faded original document, accidentally brought to light in a Cannelton private library during the preparation of this volume, bears date of Cincinnati, January 10, 1857, and is here reproduced verbatim et literatim:

"In pursuance of notice the Swiss Colonisation Society held a meeting this evening for the purpose of effecting organization and obtaining the privilege of a corpored body under the Law of Ohio passed May

1st, 1852. J. C. Christin was acting as Chairman and C. Steinauer as Secretary.

"After the Chairman had stated the object of the meeting it was on motion resolved, That we now proceed to elect three Trustees and one Clerk to hold their office for one year and until their Successors shall be duly chosen, whereupon the following persons, members of said Society were duly elected Trustees, namely, J. Schoettly, J. C. Christin, J. C. Appenzeller. H. Pfister was elected Clerk.

"Resolved: That this Association be known as the Swiss Colonisation Society.

"Resolved: That the Clerk elected have a true copy of the proceedings of this meeting recorded in the Recorder's Office, of Hamilton County, Ohio, for the purposes aforesaid.

J. C. Christin, Chairman,  
C. Steinauer, Secretair.

"Cincinnati, January 14, 1857.

"I, H. Pfister, certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the proceedings of a meeting held by the Swiss-Colonisation-Society on the 10th day of January, 1857.

H. Pfister."

On its reverse side appears further:

"Swiss Colonisation Society.

"Rec'd 15 January 1857. Recorded in Book of Church Records Page 176. J. W. Carlton, Recorder Hamilton County, Ohio. Paid."

Branches to the number of fifteen were planted at different points in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, as far away as Davenport, Iowa, and the first of the annual general conventions, planned to be held for the interests of the society at the various colonies in turn, met April 19-20-21, 1857, at Cincinnati.

Up to this time the total receipts amounted to

\$35,255 with an expenditure of only \$180, and a special committee had been sent out to look up land suitable for colonization. But one of the Ohio River's periodical and most disastrous freshets had occurred during that spring, so the homeseekers returned like Noah's weary dove to the Ark, without even the significant olive branch.

In July of the same year Charles Rebstock, M. Oehlman and C. Tueffli came down the river on a similar quest, stopping at numerous places for inspection of the country. Efforts were made to engage large tracts of land at Rome and at Cannelton, but as the prices asked were too high or the available acreage insufficient, no purchases were made. It is told that an extensive tract below Hawesville was offered upon good terms, but that the Commissioners held that it would appear inconsistent with their ideals of liberty to plant their community in a slaveholding state.

Be this as it may, some now unknown consideration dictated their choice of land lying directly opposite, whose natural facilities—other than the circumstance of its location upon the Indiana shore—were far inferior to those on the Kentucky side for the upbuilding of a town. "Mistletoe Lodge," Judge Huntington's seven hundred acre estate, formerly owned by Nicholas J. Roosevelt and for many years later by the heirs of Robert Fulton, was the first and largest purchase, July 29, 1857, for \$28,000. Others selling tracts of different sizes at varying prices were Judge Ballard Smith, Joshua B. Huckleby, Henry P. Brazee, John James, Eli Thrasher, Samuel Webb, Charles Scull, John Turner, Benjamin Persinger, Edwin Morris Abel, G. W. and William Butler, besides others whose names imply non-resident ownership.

Four thousand one hundred and fifty-four acres was the aggregate bought, at a total price of \$85,364, to meet which sum an assessment of \$15 was made upon each of 8,192 shares held, followed a little later by an additional tax of \$5 per capita. This fund amounted



to \$163,840 (although something like \$20,000 was never fully paid), and each share entitled its owner to two plots of land in the new settlement. The allotment was made by drawing lots, thus giving every member an absolutely equal chance as to desirability of location.

Much of the site was irregular hill-land covered with dense forest growth, other portions cut up by gullies, depressions and the spreading forks of Windy Creek, so laying out a regular city plat upon such broken ground was an undertaking whose success bespeaks high engineering skill on the part of the chief surveyor, August Pfaefflin, who was assisted by Christopher R. Huntington. The plat was laid off into 392 town blocks, containing 7,328 lots and 294 garden blocks, having 794 lots. Based on a conservative estimate of six persons to a lot this provided for a possible city of 90,000 inhabitants, an optimistic outlook whose realization yet remains in the future, notwithstanding the creditable development which three-score years have brought about.

The river's course being here west of north, the site was laid out into streets exactly rectangular with the points of the compass, leaving some irregularly shaped blocks in the angles next the river, but all the remainder being parallelograms. Beginning at First Street the streets running north and south were eighty feet in width, running up to Thirty-second Street, although topographical conditions have practically limited the growth of settlement between Sixth and Fourteenth Streets.

A peculiarly interesting example of street nomenclature, one of striking originality for its time, is to be noticed in the seventy-foot intersecting streets which run from east to west. The first roadway cut through the forest was in the exact centre of the plat and received the appropriate name of Tell Street, though local circumstances have kept it from becoming the important thoroughfare anticipated, commer-

cial interests having followed the line of Eighth Street whose title was officially changed in 1915 to Main Street.

Such names as Winkelried, Payne, Blum and Herrmann served to recall their home land to the sturdy pioneers; while to perpetuate the spirit of liberty, which had sent other and earlier lovers of freedom from Europe to America, the names of Lafayette, DeKalb and Steuben, were bestowed on other streets. From these it was a natural transition to America's own heroes of the Revolutionary period, so the names of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin were utilized.

Since the new settlement was designed to become a manufacturing community, the power of steam found recognition under the names of Watt and Fulton. Education was commemorated through Pestalozzi; Humboldt received the choice as a representative of natural science; Schiller recalled the wealth of literature possessed by the German language; Rubens paid tribute to the art of painting, while Mozart bespoke a love for the best in music. The first printing office was established near Gutenberg Street, a site yet occupied by a newspaper office, but whether this location was accidental or intentional cannot now be determined.

With such admirable civic taste as was thus displayed, it is regrettable that the title "Helvetia" originally suggested for the place itself was exchanged for the "city" suffix so typical of America's new towns, yet "Tell City," by which the village came to be known in the autumn of 1857, has in itself a certain suggestiveness of its own period in our national development.

When the philosopher Themistocles was asked, at a feast in violet-crowned Athens, to play upon a musical instrument, his reply was: "I am ignorant of such an art, but I know how to make a small town a great city," and every promoter of a new village located anywhere between the Apalachians and the Rockies, between 1850 and 1860, fancied himself a modern The-

mistocles. As Tell City, therefore, the infant community made her initial entry upon History's page, nor is the seal yet set upon her record.

The year 1857 was consumed in laying out the town site preparatory for immigration, and the earliest arrival of residents was on March 13, 1858, Charles Steinauer being one of the three or four who came then. He was just thirty years of age, having been born March 17, 1828, in Canton Schwyz, Switzerland, one of five sons and two daughters who were the children of Benedict and Gertrude (Effinger) Steinauer. Receiving a liberal education in his home, he crossed the ocean at the age of twenty-two to seek new fortune in America, locating first in Cincinnati, where he engaged in business until coming to Indiana. His native talents had identified him with the colonization movement from its inception, and he ably filled many positions of high responsibility in the county which he made his home for the rest of his life, or until February 28, 1891.

He was an active and valuable Republican, and while never an office seeker consented to serve as County Commissioner from 1881 to 1884. Spending his life as a bachelor, his only remaining relatives in Tell City are collateral descendants springing from the marriage of his brother, August Steinauer, to Antonia Steinauer (not a relative). The two brothers' first business venture in Tell City was the earliest hotel opened there, kept in the "Mistletoe Lodge" residence which had been Judge Huntington's home, situate on the river front between Gutenberg and Washington Streets. This they followed for two years, then entered upon the manufacture of flour in which the family has continued up to the present with marked success.

Probably the earliest industrial undertaking was the saw-mill established April, 1858, by the Herrmann Brothers (John and Peter) who found themselves scarcely able to supply the enormous demand for lum-

ber, as there were no houses to shelter newcomers and buildings of flimsy nature sprang up like mushrooms everywhere in the woods.

The Herrmanns were of Prussian birth, children of John and Katharina (Altes) Herrmann, and came to the United States in 1852, working at the wagon makers' trade in various cities of Ohio before locating in Cincinnati. From thence they removed to Tell City, of which John Herrman became the first postmaster, when the postoffice was established in 1858 by Postmaster-General Aaron V. Brown, of Tennessee, whose official successor as holder of that portfolio in Buchanan's cabinet was Joseph Holt, of Kentucky, born directly opposite Perry County, at "Holt Place," Breckinridge County. A year later the Herrmann brothers entered upon the wagon making business, building up what became one of the largest in Southern Indiana. After some years the manufacture of hames was developed, remaining in control of the Herrmann family, who are still locally prominent, until 1906, when their plant was absorbed by the United States Hame Manufacturing Company, who made Tell City one of their principal depots in the Middle West.

Miss Josephine Blum was the first girl born in the village and William Scheitlen the first boy. Frank Herm erected the first house after the town site was platted, a log edifice at the southwest corner of Main (Eighth) and Tell Streets, which remained until the dawn of the Twentieth Century, a small replica of it being displayed in an industrial parade which celebrated Mardi Gras of the year 1900. J. K. Frick was the pioneer architect, but the temporary nature of most of the buildings debarred him from any profound undertakings in Tell City, though he afterward won more permanent professional success in Evansville.

It is said that the sign "Lager Bier" was displayed upon fully three-fourths of the earliest houses, yet drunkenness was a thing unknown and disorder was wholly absent from the peaceful life of the colonists.

Their industrial activities were turned in a direction radically opposed to dissipation of any kind, although they brought from the Fatherland the Continental observance of Sunday as a holiday none the less than as a holy day. Harmless Sabbath-day pastime, therefore, was never frowned upon but rather encouraged from the first, and after the lapse of almost sixty years the social atmosphere of Tell City retains much of that enjoyable liberality which was the ideal of its founders, who were communistic in the term's true sense, without being Socialists, as the word is spoken today.

## CHAPTER XXI

### PIONEER MEN AND INDUSTRIES OF TELL CITY.

By leaps and bounds the population increased during the first year of Tell City's existence and the three hundred people who were there in April, 1858, had grown to six hundred and twenty by June 1, and eighty-six houses had been built. At the close of the month 986 persons were enumerated, with 120 houses, and five miles of streets cut through the trees.

On July 5 (the Fourth falling on Sunday) the first celebration of Independence Day was marked by a picnic on the hill, at which three or four thousand people were present, according to the account given in the Cannelton Reporter of July 10. The steamer Prairie Rose had brought from Cincinnati a special excursion of 600 Switzers who came down the river to visit their friends and see the new town. The boat lay in port three days before returning, but many of the tourists had decided to remain, as a fresh census taken within the same week showed 1,230 residents and 154 buildings.

The Swiss Colonization Society held its second general convention September 19-20-21, 1858, at Tell City and the board of the organization was then officially transferred to Perry County. The first officers of the Tell City branch were Charles Steinauer, President; F. W. Dietz, Vice-President; John Siebert, Secretary; William Leopold, Assistant Secretary; John Wegman, Treasurer; Louis Frey, Agent and Corresponding Secretary. All these officers composed the Board of Directors and an act was passed authorizing loans of from \$500 to \$1,000 of the society's funds to worthy business or manufacturing enterprises.

To the first shingle mill, started by Jacob Loew, a loan of \$300 was extended, and like amounts to Reis and Endebrock who founded the first brewery, and to Peter Schreck by whom the second was established. One hundred dollars was lent in November, 1858, to David Brosi and Henry Meyer who started the first planing mill. Prior to this time the only lumber yard was that of Hausler and Company, who had brought dressed timber, mouldings, doors, windows and shutters from Cincinnati. In the following spring a loan of \$4,000 was made to the Tell City Furniture Factory. It was organized by twenty-five men, at whose head was John C. Harrer, born June 14, 1822, in Bavaria, the eldest son of George and Christina (Long) Harrer. After learning the cabinet maker's trade and following it through various parts of Germany, he came in 1846 to America, first to Pittsburg, thence to Cincinnati and finally into Perry County. Married twice—in 1847 to Eleanor Rohe and in 1864 to Susan Hannekrath—his Tell City descendants in this generation are many.

The first store of any consequence was opened as early as April, 1858, by Charles W. Reif, Sr., one of those who had come down the river the previous year to select a town site and who was active among the town's founders. He had come with his wife, Barbara Graf, in 1848 to America from Baden, where he was born January 17, 1817. John Jacob Meyer, a native of Canton Zurich, Switzerland, September 24, 1828, one of nine children born to John Jacob and Barbara (Staubli) Meyer, was a pioneer in the hardware business and tinner's trade in which he had served a four years' apprenticeship at home before coming in 1854 to the United States. One year earlier as an immigrant had come Herman Stalder, also a Switzer, from Canton Aargau, born November 26, 1833, his parents, Ludwig and Clara (Herzog) Stalder having brought fourteen children into the world. All three of these men were very early merchants who in



time became veterans in the commercial circles of Tell City, and others were John Hartman, Frederick Rank, John Siebert, F. W. Dietz, John Graff, Charles Robert, Kimmel and Goettel.

In May, 1858, the original wharfboat was floated down the river from Cincinnati and rented to Frederick Steiner, a native of Canton St. Gall, August 10, 1830, who remained in control for many years, becoming a notable river man, familiar in steamboat circles everywhere and personally conspicuous from his immense size, which made him a striking figure up to his death, October 30, 1882. Facing the wharf he erected the three-story brick hotel which has long been a landmark to river travelers and attained a wide reputation, first as the Steiner House and afterward the Hotel Moraweck.

Anton Moraweck, for many years its manager and later its owner, was born August 15, 1828, in Bohemia, the youngest child of Joseph and Josepha (Philipp) Moraweck, and had been only two years in America when the impetus of the Swiss Colonization Society brought him in 1858 from Davenport, Iowa, to Perry County. By his marriage, May 13, 1856, to Claudine Kroboth, three children were born of whom the eldest became a physician of international reputation. Dr. Ernest Moraweck was a specialist whose authority carried weight in the clinics of Vienna and Berlin no less than the United States, and it was while returning from one of his frequent voyages across the Atlantic that he lost his life in the tragic sinking of the Titanic, April 15, 1912. His wife, Amelia Basler of Tell City, had died several years earlier, no offspring resulting from the marriage.

Paul Schuster was Tell City's pioneer real estate agent and lawyer, but remained only a short time before going to Cannelton where he was the founder and principal of Franklin Institute.

Educational standards having been always most assiduously cultivated among the Switzers, it was less

than four months after the earliest settlers of Tell City arrived that the first school was commenced, in July, 1858, with Albert Ostreicher as its teacher. His instruction was given entirely in German, and the small building available could accommodate only a limited number of those wishing to attend. A two-story frame school house was erected in early autumn by the Colonization Society, and about November it is said that regular sessions were begun, employing two teachers and both the English and German languages. The two tongues continued to be used side by side throughout the grades for some forty years, more or less, but German was finally relegated to the high school course, as an alternative with Latin for graduation, according to the Indiana scheme of study.

"Tell City is a marvel," declared the Cannelton Reporter of October 2, 1858. "There is nothing like its history and progress, and it has no precedent. It has now over eleven miles of streets, cut seventy and eighty feet wide through the forests; has 1,500 people and 300 houses. All this has been done since the middle of last April. The shareholders are coming in daily and as soon as they can find their lots, begin their improvements. Everyone seems confident that the owners of the adjacent lots will come and do likewise. By this time next year, we expect to see 5,000 people here and the establishment of sufficient branches of industry to give all full employment. This union of German and Swiss, of industry and economy, of thrift and industry, will accomplish wonders."

March 19, 1859, appeared the first issue of a Tell City newspaper, the *Helvetia*, whose outfit was removed from Cincinnati where it had been founded three years before by the Colonization Society, who owned it, a committee having charge of its publication. Its first local proprietors and editors were Walser and Schellenbaum, who printed it in German as a six-column folio, at a subscription price of \$2. Originally independent in politics, it came out strongly

Republican during the national campaign of 1860 and remained such for its whole existence, under several changes of name and ownership.

John Weber, Louis Frey, J. N. Sorg, Albert Ostreicher and Ferdinand Mengis were all in turn connected with the office, until publication ceased in 1865. Henry Meyer then attempted its revival as the *Volksblatt*, but without success, and for a short time later it was printed as the *Beobachter*.

The initial number of the *Anzeiger*, however, appearing September 1, 1866, was the beginning of a permanent periodical, first owned by M. Schmidt and F. J. Widmer, with an editorial committee of twelve citizens. Within a few years the controlling interest was purchased by George F. Bott, and in his family the establishment remains, though the *Anzeiger* was discontinued April 27, 1912, an English paper, the *Tell City Journal*, having been established in the same office February 18, 1891. For some time its editorial chair was filled by the late Francis Anson Evans, one of Perry County's few verse-writers, whose contributions in rime drew special attention to the *Journal* and were widely copied in Indiana and elsewhere. He was a native Hoosier, and wrote with pleasing and wholly unaffected simplicity of style.

George F. Bott, while not one of the very earliest settlers, came nevertheless to Tell City soon enough (1860) to be classed among the pioneer residents, and lived long enough to see realized many of its promises of substantial development. He was born July 23, 1842, in Ravensburg, Germany, the home of his parents, George and Marie (Bauer) Bott. Coming with them to Perry County, he soon afterward entered upon a printer's apprenticeship at Dubuque, Iowa, and in 1861 enlisted in Company D, First Nebraska Infantry (later Cavalry). His regiment was under Grant at Fort Donelson and Corinth, also participating in many other well-known battles, under Lew Wallace, and he was promoted to sergeant's rank in Company B. Com-

ing back to Tell City after peace was declared, he married Babette Loeb and to their union seven children were born. From 1869 to 1885 he held the office of postmaster, and continued active in journalism up to his death, July 31, 1896.

The name of Ferdinand Becker is linked with that of the Colonization Society from its beginning, as he was a full-blooded Switzer, born June 22, 1827, in Canton Glarus, the eldest son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Grubermann) Becker. His collegiate education in both French and German was exceptionally thorough, and it was as a cultured young man that he came to America in 1854. Following mercantile pursuits in Cincinnati and Davenport, he left Iowa in 1858 to identify himself with the new colony of his nation in Indiana, and attained in Perry County a degree of prominence for which his abilities well fitted him. From his marriage in 1861 with Mary Gnau, of Cincinnati, sprang a family of descendants who respect his name by honourably maintaining it.

Michael Bettinger came as a "Forty-eighter" to the United States from Wurttemberg, where he was born September 29, 1824, the son of Martin and Juliane (Grisser) Bettinger. For two and a half years after attaining his majority he wore the uniform of military service, which he was glad to exchange for civilian garb by emigrating to Cincinnati. There he was married in 1849 to Elizabeth Angst, also of Wurttemberg, and together they came to Tell City ten years later. Like many others among the pioneers, he made several changes of occupation before settling down into the woolen manufacture. Of his five children three remained in Tell City, one son making a home in Cincinnati, where his activity found wider scope, especially in advancing the natural river interests of the entire Ohio Valley, a truly colossal work with which the name of Albert Bettinger will always be honourably connected.

By spring-time of 1859 the desirability of an organ-

ized municipality was felt, so a petition with 124 signatures was presented by Louis Frey to the County Commissioners, asking that 1847 acres of the site be incorporated. June 28 was thereupon set for election, which resulted favourably, and was ratified September by the county. The first Board of Town Trustees, however, had met July 28 for organization, as follows: Henry Brehmer, Joseph Einsiedler, William Leopold, Frederick Rank, J. M. Rauscher, Charles W. Reif, Christian Uebelmesser, trustees; J. C. Schening, clerk; John Wegman, treasurer; William Leopold, assessor; Frederick Steiner, marshal.

Naturally the records were kept for a number of years in German, the language in which all transactions were conducted, and a historian's research work therefore demands the skill of an interpreter, while translation does not always sufficiently repay the effort. The urgent need of additional school facilities was realized, so preparations were set on foot for building another two-story frame school house, 36 by 60 feet, to accommodate increasing demands. Several vacant houses, including one of stone on Lot 129, had been used for school purposes, also a building in the market square (now the City Hall Park) where religious services had been held. All these, as well as some few private schools, were carried on in both languages and made weekly reports of their progress to the Colonization Society.

Early in 1863 one of the school houses was torn down to check a conflagration threatening serious spread, and immediate preparations were made to erect another. The Town Board appropriated \$600, \$1,100 being subscribed by the Colonization Society and others. The two-story brick edifice which for two-score years crowned the highest point in Ninth Street, was built at a cost which ultimately reached \$9,000, furnishing—with other houses—adequate room until 1867 when the "North Building," also a two-story brick, was constructed for \$11,000.

The first teachers in the new "South Building," during 1863-64, were Jacob Bollinger, Albert Ostreicher and Mrs. Nagel. Of these, Jacob Bollinger should be mentioned as probably the most profoundly educated man among Tell City's early instructors. Born March 11, 1818, in Canton Aargau, he received scholastic training in Switzerland and taught there before coming in 1855 to America, two of his brothers having preceded him. He was first a teacher of instrumental music at Fort Smith, Arkansas, afterward Professor of German in a college at Lebanon, Illinois, before accepting the first principalship of the Tell City schools. Later engaging in real estate, underwriting and the practice of law, besides serving two years as United States Revenue Collector, he stood throughout his life in Tell City as one who upheld to a marked degree the kulturkampf of Continental Europe.

Likewise a native Switzer was John Baumgaertner, born May 1, 1843, in Canton Graubuenden, the second child of Simon and Anna (Fluetsch) Baumgaertner. Educated in the excellent common schools and also at a normal training school in his home town, he taught there until a year after his majority. He came then to America and in December, 1865, settled in Tell City, where he taught German for seven consecutive years. Afterward figuring in politics for two terms as town marshal, he then engaged in the wharfboat business, until his removal in 1879 to Rockport. There he conducted the Verandah Hotel until his death, and his children are of social and professional prominence in Spencer County.

Another whose introduction to Tell City was also in the school room, but whose distinction was attained in the realm of finance, was Gustave Huthsteiner, who taught in the new brick shortly after Jacob Bollinger.

He was born April 17, 1844, in Prussia, the eldest child of Edward and Caroline (Aschenbach) Huthsteiner, who came with so many other Germans in 1848 to America, locating in Cincinnati. Here the



younger children were born and all received an excellent education through the liberality of their father, a successful merchant of the Queen City. After teaching there for two years, Gustave Huthsteiner came at the age of twenty to Tell City, first clerking in a drug store for a short time before again becoming a teacher.

This experience, added to three months of military service in Company K, Fifth Ohio Cavalry, taught him to read human nature well and developed those traits of logical self-control which made him in maturer years Tell City's leading financier and a strong figure in Perry County politics, serving two consecutive terms as County Treasurer and being elected in 1878 as Representative to the Legislature. Twice married—first to Pauline, daughter of John and Pauline (Stadlin) Weber, who died December 25, 1883; and some years later to Louise Ludwig, also of Tell City—he left at his death, February 1, 1902, a considerable family, of whom some still live in their native town and devote themselves to her well-being, as a privilege no less than an hereditary obligation to the name of Huthsteiner.

At the time of the founding of the place and so long as incoming colonies continued to arrive, every branch of business was extremely prosperous. The newcomers invariably brought with them goodly sums in gold, laid up to be of use in their new home, and the large amounts of coin paid out of land, labour, farm products, etc., had the effect usual in new communities of raising the price of commodities.

But when the last immigrants had come and had sent their gold into the channels of trade, reaction set in, furthered by the immense influence of the War Between the States. Many failed, and returned to their former homes; by rigid economy others pulled through until better times came again; some few, by good judgment, skill and energy, prospered even during the most stringent financial distress of the sixties.



Truly marvellous has been the tenacity of life displayed by some of Tell City's earliest and still leading manufacturing establishments, and her prosperity reflects brilliantly upon the persistent industry, frugality and thrift of her German-Swiss people.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

THE history of Perry County in the earlier half of the 'sixties, like that of the nation at large, is practically the story of the War Between the States, besides which all other occurrences during 1861 to 1865 shrink to insignificance. And, for the sake of clear understanding, let it be recognized that the phrase employed to designate the conflict in question is the only one among all those in use—Civil War, War of Secession, Rebellion, etc.,—which is at once of complete accuracy and absolute impartiality.

The late Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts, wrote: "The term Civil War signifies nothing. There have been innumerable civil wars, and as a matter of general history it is manifestly absurd for us to appropriate the term to a single civil war of our own." James Bryce, the English historian of international reputation, British Ambassador to Washington, 1912-1915, in his "American Commonwealths," speaks of the United States as: "A Union of Commonwealths \* \* \* they have over their citizens an authority which is their own and not delegated by the central Government. They—that is, the older ones among them—existed before it. They could exist without it. Seven states seceded and confederated without resorting to arms, regarding secession as their court of last resort, and simply one among what they considered other equal rights under a Constitution whose interpretation, until then, had never been established on those points. Thus, the war was not—exclusively—'of secession.'"

George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe—our first five

Presidents—were ‘rebels,’ inasmuch as they conducted armed resistance against a power of which they admitted themselves subjects up to the signing of a certain document, July 4, 1776. The Southrons construed their doctrine of State Sovereignty as justifying them in maintaining its claim by force, yet never placed themselves in ‘rebellion’ to any authority they had previously recognized.

In saying the War Between the States, the noun ‘States’ is used in a collective sense, exclusively, implying no war between individual commonwealths. The official titles of the two contending parties involved were the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, and the historical perspective gained through fifty years of national peace shows conclusively that

“We banish our anger forever,  
When we laurel the graves of our dead,”

who were all heroes of principle during the controversy which the future shall call The War Between the States.

It could not be expected that merely moving across Mason and Dixon’s Line would work any mysterious sea-change in the temperament of the Virginians, Marylanders or Carolinians who had transplanted their family stock to Hoosier soil, and Perry County contained many sturdy Old Line Whigs, conscientious believers in “States Rights.” Nor had departure from their ‘stern and rock-bound coast’ modified the somewhat austere ideals of those New Englanders who had sought homes in the Middle West; and among the residents of Eastern descent were Abolitionists of the most pronounced type. Cavalier and Puritan faced each other, as in centuries before, and it is to the everlasting credit of Perry County that local controversy was never more than a battle of opinions, couched in eloquence of greater or less degree.

When the day dawned bringing actual strife over an

issue involving the perpetuity of our national existence, Perry County forgot her petty quarrels, sending away her sons, shoulder to shoulder,—her own native-born lads, American through ancestry reaching to Colonial days, alongside her adopted children of other nationalities, French, Belgian, Irish, Scotch, English and German. In all, 3,558 men are credited by the Adjutant-General to Perry County; a total surpassed by no other county in Indiana in proportion to her population.

That the tide of popular opinion in the county had begun to turn toward the Union, and against its possible disintegration, is placed upon record beyond question by the tabulated vote in the presidential elections of 1856 and 1860. For Buchanan and Breckinridge, 1,066 votes were cast, opposed by 632 for Fillmore and Donelson, a Democratic plurality of 434. In 1860 the total vote was greater by 441 than that of four years previous, 244 of these ballots being in the two-year-old Swiss colony of Tell City, for the first time a factor in county politics. The double split in the Democratic party, which placed three of their candidates in the field, had in that particular a parallel fifty-two years later in the Republican party. Lincoln and Hamlin polled 1,026 votes; Douglas and Johnson, 947; Bell and Everett, 160; Breckinridge and Lane, 6; a plurality of 79 for the Republican candidates.

The campaign was in every respect the most exciting one the county had experienced, owing to the extraordinary division of sentiment, even among members of the same families, brothers voting opposite tickets, wives adhering to principles directly contrary to the politics of their husbands. 'Pole-raising' had furnished occasion for large public gatherings during the summer in all sections of the county, the flags being made at home by the women, and in some instances formally presented by some chosen fair one. Conspicuously located at Cannelton, within full view of passing steamboats, were three of these flaunting standards, only the Breckinridge party being too weak

to display their emblem. The Bell pole was the tallest in Indiana, its height 215 feet, but the Lincoln flag was by far the largest, representing thousands of patient stitches from the women who wrought its stars and stripes with patriotic needles. Joshua B. Huckleby, an elector on the Bell and Everett Constitutional Union ticket, whose platform consisted of the vague sentence: "The constitution of the country, the union of the states, the enforcement of the laws," was subjected to much neighbourly chaffing, because his wife refused her assistance toward making his party flag, but worked ardently upon the Lincoln banner, their two sons voting with the Republicans.

The only English newspaper in the county was the Cannelton Reporter, (the Tell City *Helvetia* being printed in the German language,) and its columns during 1860 show the strong Democratic sentiment existing, although none of its utterances could be classed as disloyal from a Northern standpoint, Jacob B. Maynard, its editor, continually expressing his belief in some sort of satisfactory adjustment between the two sections of the country, while always warmly favourable toward Southern principles.

The election of Lincoln by a strictly sectional majority in November, followed within six weeks by South Carolina's ordinance of secession, brought about a situation too highly charged with intense partisanship to permit a disregard of conditions, and on December 27, 1860, the Reporter printed a call for a public meeting of citizens on the opening day of the New Year, at Cannelton, its designated object,—“in view of the present distracted condition of the country \* \* \* the purpose of giving expression of our unwavering devotion to the Union in its most forcible form.” Every township and each political party found representation among the signatures which numbered fifty-six, just the same as of those immortal “Signers” who appended their names to the Declaration of Independence.

Pursuant to this call, at one o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, January 1, 1861, an assemblage was gathered which tested the capacity of Mozart Hall, the largest meeting place in Cannelton. Hamilton Smith was made chairman, and Charles H. Mason and Jacob B. Maynard the secretaries. Upon motion of John James Key it was carried that the chair appoint a committee of seven to draft resolutions upon public affairs, which should be submitted to the meeting for action thereon. Job Hatfield, chairman; Ballard Smith, William McKinley, Sr., Dr. James Foster, Andrew P. Batson, Allen Hyde and Dr. L—— Hargis formed the committee, during whose absence for deliberation speeches were delivered by Joshua B. Huckleby, Charles H. Mason, Jacob B. Maynard and Hamilton Smith. Each address was a stirring appeal to loyalty, frequently broken by tumultuous applause, yet all exhibited some doubt as to the best course to be pursued in the emergency of the further secession of Southern states.

On their return, the committee presented a series of six resolutions, the first four merely pledging the attachment of the county to the Federal Union; consenting to any honourable concessions to preserve the Union; recommending the repeal of personal liberty bills; and deprecating that peaceably disposed citizens of Perry County had been subjected to hostile treatment in the South. These were received with demonstrations of general satisfaction, but the reading of Resolutions Five and Six made it instantly evident that the parting of the ways had come. The series ended with the two following clauses:

“Resolved, That if by reason of the existing unhappy difficulties the Union should be sundered, which may God forbid, we hereby pledge ourselves to the people of the border states, both slave and free, to co-operate with them in any measure that will secure to us the Federal Union, and to all our citizens the rights, privileges, liberties and immunities which we have under our present noble Constitution, believing that if the

heart of our Nation can be saved, that, sooner or later, new vigour and strength will be sent out to its extremities.

“Resolved, That if no concessions and compromises can be obtained and a disunion shall be unfortunately made between the Northern and Southern States, then the commercial, manufacturing and agricultural interests of the people of this county require us to say that we can not consent that the Ohio River shall be the boundary line of the contending nations, and we earnestly desire that if a line is to be drawn between the North and the South that line shall be found north of us.”

William McKinley, Sr., of the committee, recorded himself in opposition to these two sections, but the adoption of the series as a unit was moved by George W. Patterson and the motion received several seconds. Charles H. Mason, however, proposed an amendment, carried after some discussion, by which each resolution should be voted upon separately. As a result, the first five were unanimously adopted, but the final clause elicited fiery discussion from both sides. Joshua B. Huckleby, Charles H. Mason, Dr. Harmon S. Clark, Thomas W. Taylor and Henry P. Brazee, Jr., opposed its adoption, Ballard Smith, Job Hatfield, Jacob B. Maynard and Doctor Hargis debating in its favour. After extended and heated argument, the cries of “Question! Question!” at length procured a vote, the result announced by the chair being: For the resolution, 99; against the resolution, 55; many present not voting. Thunders of applause greeted the verdict, which was followed by immediate adjournment.

In its next issue (January 3), which detailed the foregoing, the Reporter said editorially: “We have been told that the Southern feeling would expend itself in bluster and brag; that it meant nothing—all would subside. We have never believed it; we have warned our readers against this delusion. Terrible times are upon us—fearful times; a mighty nation is going to



pieces, and if we would not be involved in calamities beggaring description, let us take manly ground and place Indiana in a position where the wild waves of fanaticism can not engulf us. \* \* \* The Ohio River must never be the boundary line between contending nations. We have always lived upon terms of friendship with our Kentucky neighbours; Kentucky by no act of hers has ever shown any spirit but that of the right; Indiana has never passed a personal liberty bill; Perry County has ever been true to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and if the time should ever come to trace on the map of our country the boundaries of new Republics, the Ohio River can not be one of those boundaries—never! The line must go north of us and the further north the better.”

The proclamation of President Buchanan setting apart Friday, January 4, as a day of fasting and prayer for deliverance from national calamity, was not generally regarded at Cannelton in the proper spirit of its intention, but to the credit of many God-fearing citizens be it told that solemn services of intercession were held by the clergymen of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic congregations, the Rev. William Louis Githens in St. Luke's Church, and the Rev. Michael Marendt in St. Michael's Church, both pastors heading their flocks in dutiful observance of the doctrinal precept, “to pay respectful obedience to the Civil Authority regularly and legitimately constituted;” the same consistent conservatism which enabled their national systems to maintain unbroken organic union through the years of strife which disrupted practically every other religious body in America.

There is little question that the prevailing sentiment in the county at this time was pro-Southern, not unnatural through commercial interests and intimate personal relations with the South, it being generally felt that in the contingency of the Union's dissolution the line of demarcation must go north instead of south of

Perry County and not make the Ohio River a national boundary.

On the forty-sixth anniversary of Jackson's victory at New Orleans, styled in the Cannelton Reporter "the Glorious Eighth of January," 1861, in Polk's Bottom, (now Tobinsport) a joint assembly of citizens from Perry County and Breckinridge County, Kentucky, was held as a Union Meeting. For chairman the choice fell upon Colonel David Rodman Murray, Cloverport's foremost citizen, a strikingly handsome man, of conspicuous personal loyalty to the Federal Government. He had been thrice married; first to a Miss Alexander, secondly to Eliza Huston, and thirdly to 'the Widow Crittenden,' (Anna Maria Allen) daughter of the gallant Captain John Allen, who fell at the Battle of the Raisin River. James H. Gibbon, of Perry County, was secretary, and upon motion by Daniel L. Armstrong, a committee of six, equally divided, was appointed to frame the sense of the meeting; Jacob B. Maynard, George W. Patterson and Hiram Carr, of Indiana; William Vest, Daniel Hambleton and Dr. J. F. Christian, of Kentucky.

The preamble and resolutions presented and unanimously adopted, were practically identical with the Cannelton document of a week previous, save for the insertion of Breckinridge County's name alongside that of Perry, and in the closing sentence of the final clause, which expressed the wish that a dividing line—if forced upon the two counties—should be found "North or South of us," a pledge to the sister interests of both.

The entire assembly were lavishly entertained as guests of the neighbourhood farmers, one of the earliest recorded instances of that splendid hospitality which the same families maintain as a standard in their homes today. Hundreds partook of their bounteous cheer, hundreds more could have been filled, with plenty still on hand. The boundless profusion of good things prepared by the whole-souled people of Polk's Bottom was likened by the editor of the Reporter (not always

scripturally-minded) to Pharaoh's table during the seven years of plenty in the land of Egypt.

Nor was Breckinridge County lacking in generosity. After adjournment the citizens of Cloverport invited all the Indianians present to cross the river and partake of Kentucky hospitality, which was spread before them with unstinted hand. Colonel Murray presided as informal toast-master, while mutual healths were pledged, and the day—like the historic eve of Waterloo—was closed with a "Grand Union Ball." No Hoosier or Corncracker bard has immortalized this in verse, as Byron did the Duchess of Richmond's function at Brussels, though with the beauty and chivalry of Indiana and Kentucky gathered

"To chase the glowing hours with flying feet,"  
it is easy to believe that

"All went merry as a marriage bell."

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### BEGINNING OF HOSTILITIES.

With breathless interest the action of Lincoln's administration was awaited during the first two months of 1861. Numerous citizens of Perry County were Southerners by birth and rearing, many more were of Southern descent, a part of whose heritage was a warm affection toward those states where their blood relatives yet resided, and they sincerely felt that injustice had been shown the South. In contrast, there were ardent Abolitionists who favoured a death blow to slavery while the iron was hot, though their number was fewer than those who deprecated any interference therewith. Probably the majority of all parties were willing to make any honourable concession that would preserve the Union.

President Lincoln's refusal to enforce the carriage of supplies to Major Anderson in Fort Sumter was vehemently denounced by many men in Perry County, but the editor of the Reporter said on April: "If Mr. Lincoln will so manage affairs as to avoid a fight, his administration will be a success for which he shall have our applause." No telegraph wires had yet penetrated the county, and only four weekly mails were brought by the packet Grey Eagle between Louisville and Evansville, so it was not until two days after the fall of Sumter—or April 14—that the exciting news reached Cannelton.

Sunday morning though it was, crowds of men collected on the streets. Loud talk could be heard in every group, threats and prophecies bandied to and fro for some few hours, or until the time for customary religious worship brought a close to the turbulent scene,

and excitement subsided into quiet. At every landing from Rono to Troy the tidings occasioned the same consternation, spreading like a swift prairie fire from the river bank out into the farthest township hills. Everywhere it kindled fierce indignation among the husky farmers, so that Monday morning found all spring labour forgotten in anxiety to hurry to the towns for fuller details. Newspapers were eagerly sought and were read aloud to avid listeners. That week's Reporter observed: "We do not care to discuss the legal right of the Government to Fort Sumter, and willingly admit all that can be argued in that way; but were Fort Sumter a thousand times more valuable than it is, it would be purchased at a dear price if it cost one drop of American blood shed in civil war."

As part of the former militia equipment assigned to Perry County, fifty-nine muskets belonging to the State remained in charge of Daniel L. Armstrong, Auditor, and agreeable to the orders of Governor Morton had been boxed up ready for shipment to Indianapolis. During the night of Thursday, April 18, these were secretly removed from the Court House by unknown parties, which caused no little excitement when the discovery of the abstraction was made. Many citizens were brought before Esquire John C. Wade for examination, but nothing could be elicited giving the slightest clue toward detection of anyone involved, though the guns were generally believed to be in town and a reward for their return was offered by the Auditor. A humorous communication printed the following week, written as if by the muskets in council assembled, signed by such names as Heavybreech, Shootquick, Greyflint, Surecock, Primingwire, Ramrod, and Breechpin did much to relieve the tension, causing the matter to be treated in the light of a practical joke, although it was some time before the circumstances connected with the removal were divulged.

The boxes had been carried by certain picked men from the Court House to the wharf-boat, where they

were left, as if to be put aboard a steamboat. Directly after these parties had returned to their homes, another group, by prearrangement, loaded the guns into skiffs as if to cross the river into Kentucky. But instead, the oarsmen turned into the mouth of Casselberry Creek, the Ohio being then at its spring height, and the boats were rowed to an agreed landing-point at the home of Joshua B. Huckleby. The grounds of his property, "Virginia Place," sloping south to the bank of the creek, afforded a secluded spot for disembarkation, and the muskets speedily became 'concealed weapons' beneath the plank floor of a woodshed, where they lay sequestered until long after all commotion had died away.

In the wish to maintain uninterrupted the neighbourly and friendly relations essential to peace and prosperity of citizens living on both banks of the river, communications were exchanged between Cannelton and Hawesville whose result was a joint meeting held April 30, in the latter town, by a committee comprising Charles H. Mason, Ebenezer Wilber, James A. Burkett, Joseph F. Sulzer and David Richards, of Indiana; Samuel McAdams, William Sterett, James R. Jennings, William Mason and Joseph W. Hughes, of Kentucky. Realizing that amicable intercourse between the two communities was in more danger of interruption from unwarranted acts and indiscreet conversation of irresponsible persons than from any other causes, both sides mutually pledged the efforts of all good citizens in each town toward suppressing the same. It was declared that even should there be a state of public hostility between the two sections, there was no inconsistency in observing strictest regard for the right of private persons and property, so that whether peace or war should prevail, both towns were obligated to discountenance all aggressions upon the private rights of either.

Despite these cordial phrases, which bore the ring of sincerity so far as the immediate border was in-

volved, popular sentiment against the extreme South was growing in Perry County, voiced in energetic language by the Reporter's editorial of May 2.

"The Southern Confederacy seems bent on pursuing a policy that will not only unite the North, but enrage it. It steps from stupendous follies to stupendous crimes by strides which amaze the present and throw the past into the shade, which future historians will write down as acts of political insanity without parallel in the history of nations. The attack upon Fort Sumter was criminal in the extreme, and, inasmuch as it inaugurated the war, places upon the Southern Confederacy terrible responsibilities that will weigh the more heavily as time wears on and the gloom of war settles down upon the Nation."

Looking toward possible emergencies calling for local protection, troops were organized at different points in the county, under various names, such as Perry Rifles, Newcomb Guards, Rome Legion, Hickory Rangers, Union Grays, Anderson Guards, Oil Rifles, Clark Sharpshooters, Tell City Rifles, Deutscher Jaeger, Troy Artillery, Emmet Guards, Hoosier Wildcats, Tobin Guards, Cannelton Artillery, Voltiguers, Union Guards, Tell City Artillery, Lyon Artillery and Oil Grays; twenty companies in all, the majority of which were mustered in during 1861, though 1862 and 1863 each saw the organization of two companies. Many men who first served in this home guard enlisted later in regiments for outside field duty, though all whose names appear on any muster-roll as sworn in and honourably discharged are accredited to Perry County by the Adjutant-General's report for Indiana. All are classified as the Fifth Regiment, Indiana Legion, of which Charles H. Mason was commissioned Colonel in June, 1861. Its other officers during the war were Charles Fournier, colonel; Jesse Esarey and James Lees, lieutenant-colonels; John Clark Esarey, Cornelius Leitz, Samuel Wilde and Joseph F. Sulzer, adjutants; F. L. Heik, Julius Fournier and August Pfafflin, quar-



termasters; Magnus Brucker, surgeon; Christian Kielhorn, paymaster; Peter Ludwig, judge-advocate.

Among the colonists who had located at the vigorous young settlement of Tell City were many sturdy Switzers who had seen service in the army of their Fatherland, and of such was formed the earliest company taking its departure from the county for enlistment. Commanded by Captain Louis Frey, who had been chiefly instrumental in recruiting the force, the men left May 17, 1861, on the steamer Grey Eagle, a large crowd assembling at the river bank, to see them off, with flaunting banners, firing guns, cheers of encouragement and tears of farewell. Leaving the boat at New Albany they went by rail to Indianapolis, where for several weeks they found it difficult to get into the service. Some at last came home, others went to Cincinnati and enlisted there, still others lingering at the capital until finally accepted. Nearly all eventually succeeded in entering the ranks of their adopted country, showing a determined persistence most creditable to their manly bravery.

By early summer flag-poles in every township displayed the Stars and Stripes, and, as might be expected, the wave of patriotism surged high on Independence Day, its hallowed memories rendered doubly dear through peril. At several points in Perry County the day was observed by elaborate popular demonstrations, the most imposing being naturally that at the county seat. Before daybreak people from all directions were pouring into Cannelton, and by ten o'clock in the morning not less than three thousand were assembled in the grove at "Wilber Farm," generously lent for the occasion by Ebenezer Wilber. Here three companies of the Legion were encamped. Their white tents, around which muskets were stacked when not on parade, presented a picture of military life with which many in the crowd who then looked upon it for the first time, were afterward to become too sadly familiar. Occasional salutes from a five-pound cannon, marshaled by

a squad of volunteer gunners, lent the realism of artillery to the scene.

The inspiration of fine music was supplied by the German Brass Band, who rendered appropriate national airs for the formal review, which took place at ten o'clock. Before Colonel Charles H. Mason, at the head of his staff, all mounted and uniformed, passed the companies of Captain Alfred Vaughan, Captain Charles Fournier and Captain Henry N. Wales, besides the cavalry rangers of Captain Daniel L. Armstrong, who extended their friendly 'charge' into Tobin Township directly after the brief remarks of commendation which Colonel Mason pronounced from his saddle in closing the review. This ceremony was succeeded by the oration of the day, delivered by Thomas James de la Hunt and reckoned among his hearers as a masterpiece of brilliant structure and polished delivery. A bounteous dinner under the shade of the trees was served at noon, followed by dancing on a large platform temporarily erected. At five o'clock another review of the troops brought the day to a happy close. The celebration at Polk's Bottom drew an attendance almost as large from Tobin Township and from Kentucky, and its features were along the same general plan, with Job Hatfield, of Perry County, and Colonel David Murray, of Breckinridge County, as orators. Other picnics and observances elsewhere also marked the day.

In the course of this month probably four-score men enlisted outside the county, chiefly in the Twenty-third Infantry (Colonel Sanderson) at New Albany, others (among whom was Captain George Perry De Weese of the Rome Legion) in the First Cavalry at Mount Vernon. Such action was the result of some unpleasant and deplorable petty jealousies as to commanding officers, which interfered with united action at home. On Sunday, August 4, however, the first full company, seventy strong, left the county, under Harvey Johnson, captain; James A. Burkett, first lieutenant; Thomas James de la Hunt, second lieutenant, and were mustered

into service August 30, at Indianapolis, as Company F, Twenty-sixth Regiment. It was practically made up of Cannelton men, so their departure was an occasion of pride mingled with sadness, the town and vicinity turning out en masse to bid them God-speed. The Perry Rifles and Newcomb Guards formed an escort of honour to the wharf, to board the steamer Diligent, which steamed away up the river, flags flying, handkerchiefs waving and band playing "The Girl I Left Behind Me." The war had really begun.

Only a month later the scene was repeated, the troop which had been recruited through the county by John P. Dunn, of Troy, and Henry T. Murtha, of Derby, assembling September 6, at Cannelton, to set out for the front. They encamped that night below town, and the next day (Saturday) were entertained as guests of the Cannelton Home Guards, a farewell ball being given in the evening at Mozart Hall in their honour. Sunday morning a large crowd gathered at the campground, where the troops formed before their tents and listened to a speech full of good advice from Jacob B. Maynard.

His fervid editorials in the Reporter had done much toward rousing patriotism and encouraging enlistment all over the county, and on September 5, he had written: "We are not one of those who believe the struggle is to be brief, but we do believe in the ultimate triumph of the Government over all its foes. If it turn out otherwise, then our fathers toiled in vain, the Declaration of Independence is a sham, the Constitution a farce in so many acts, and the records of our glorious and happy past may as well be gathered up for consignment to eternal oblivion. But it can not be so. Patriot hearts are not yet beating the funeral march of constitutional liberty. We confess that our gallant ship is drifting upon a lee-shore; we admit the terrific realities of the storm; but we are not engulfed beneath the wild waves of rebellion. The star of our destiny has not set in ignominious defeat; brave men are flocking round

our flag, and above the fierce ravings of the storm, shouts of 'Onward!' are heard from the armies of the Union."

Toward nine o'clock the line of march was taken up to the wharf, and the men embarked on the Commercial, the regular Cincinnati and Memphis packet, commanded by a Canneltonian, Captain S. W. Archer. After reaching Indianapolis they were mustered in, October 8, as Company D, of the Thirty-fifth Infantry, (with which the Sixty-first was consolidated later.) John P. Dunn, captain; August G. Tassin, first lieutenant; Henry T. Murtha, second lieutenant; were the original officers of the company when sworn into service.

Steamboating on the Ohio was at its zenith when the war broke out, but the most memorable sight of its day and an incident almost without parallel in Cannelton's history took place on Tuesday afternoon, September 17, when a fleet of thirteen steamboats headed by the flagship N. W. Thomas, under command of Commodore Philips, of Cincinnati, landed at the levee, occupying the entire water-front and presenting a remarkable spectacle. The sound of so many whistles and bands of music drew everybody to the bank as the flotilla rounded the bend, the Newcomb Guards, under Sergeant Wilde, and the Cannelton Artillery, under Captain Dunwoody, hurriedly mobilizing in time to welcome with salutes and cheers the anchoring of so many vessels. Business was practically suspended in all lines except the handling of coal, the fleet having in tow one hundred and sixty barges and demanding a fuel supply of twenty-five thousand bushels. Most of this was furnished by the American Cannel Coal Company, although under some protest from the manager, Dwight Newcomb, who objected to such absolute depletion of his stock on hand. Several pieces of heavy ordnance on board the flagship, which had landed directly in front of his residence, "Oak Hall," backed up by three hundred splendid-looking artillerymen and

infantry may have contributed toward overcoming his opposition, since the balance of coal needed to complete the quota called for by Commodore Philips was quickly procured from the Trabue mines at Hawesville.

Two other full companies left Perry County before the close of the year, the departure of each being attended by hospitable and patriotic farewells. On Saturday evening, October 18, a fine banquet was given in the Masonic Hall at Troy, by the citizens of that town, in honour of fifty-one men who boarded the steamer Eugene at 4 o'clock the following morning, bound for Camp Joe Holt at Jeffersonville, where they were mustered in, November 21, as Company E, Forty-ninth Infantry, Edward B. Cutler, captain; Hiram Evans, first lieutenant; William A. Jordan, second lieutenant. Twenty-five other men, recruited by Surgeon Magnus Brucker, had left Troy a fortnight earlier.

Tell City had already sent many of her sons into the ranks, beginning with the troop which Captain Louis Frey had formed in May, so no possible lack of ardent patriotism is indicated by the circumstance that hers was the latest company from the three towns to be mustered in during the opening year of the war. Theodore Pleisch and Nicholas Steinauer spent September and October in securing recruits, and on November 12, their company, ninety strong, the largest single body of men which Perry County had thus far contributed, left Tell City for Indianapolis, after rousing tributes had been paid them by their fellow-citizens. Amid cheering shouts of "Hoch!", "Prosit!" and "Aufwiedersehen!" the steamer Eugene bore them away to Evansville where the Sixtieth Regiment was organized, of which they formed Company A, Theodore Pleisch, captain; Nicholas Steinauer, first lieutenant; Ernst Kipp, second lieutenant. With others they were soon transferred to Indianapolis and the regiment was there filled out, its first duty being as guard for the Confederate prisoners held at Camp Morton during the winter months of 1861-62.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### BENEVOLENT AND PATRIOTIC WORK OF WOMEN.

PERRY COUNTY'S patriotic women did not confine themselves merely to ornamental displays of sentiment toward the soldiers, but the same vigorous characteristics which women of the Revolutionary period had manifested came forth a century later in their descendants, and the approach of winter found organized societies for sending practical comforts to the men at the front, besides administering relief to such families they had left behind as were in circumstances of need. Knitting-needles flashed in many a parlour, and the Ladies' Patriotic Aid Association, of which Mrs. Charles H. Mason (Rachel Huckleby) was president, supplied to the Quartermaster-General at Indianapolis many undergarments, socks, mittens and comforts of regulation pattern, which represented the generosity of Cannelton and Tell City women in time and labour.

All this was in addition to the many boxes of home-prepared food, substantials and delicacies, with little individual luxuries, shipped direct to the Perry County regiments in camp. Several of these were attached to the Army of the Frontier, in Missouri, and in January, 1862, Lieutenant George Perry De Weese, of Rome, who had enlisted in the First Cavalry, was appointed Assistant Adjutant-General for the Military District of Southeastern Missouri.

In October and November of 1861, Joseph Whittaker, of Cannelton, co-operated with John Sumner, of Spencer County, in raising a company designed for the Sixty-second Regiment, with rendezvous at Rockport. Their efforts were successful, but when the men were mustered into service, February 24, 1862, it was as



Company G, of the Fifty-third Regiment; Joseph Whitaker, captain; John Donnelly, first lieutenant; Michael Fitzpatrick, second lieutenant.

As a river county, more or less directly affected by any events of the war along the Ohio or its tributaries, deep local interest was felt in the campaign prosecuted by the army and navy forces, under General Grant and Admiral Foote respectively, on the Cumberland and the Tennessee, whose courses parallel one another about ten miles apart for some seventy miles from where both streams empty into the Ohio. Many Perry County troops were engaged in the attack on Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, so the news of the capture occasioned great rejoicing.

Under command of the irascible General Nelson, (who had exhibited while landing at Cannelton for coal, that ill-controlled temper which caused him to shoot General Jefferson C. Davis in the Galt House at Louisville some time afterward,) a numerous transport-fleet had gone down the river only some few days earlier, many of these boats now returning laden with sick and wounded soldiery, and there was talk—which never materialized—of establishing a military hospital at Cannelton. On Sunday morning, February 28, the steamer Argonaut passed up, carrying the captured General Simon Bolivar Buckner and three hundred other Confederate prisoners bound for Indianapolis. Adjutant Thomas James de la Hunt, who was detailed in personal charge of General Buckner, disembarked at Cannelton for a few days' furlough before returning to his regiment in Missouri.

Early in April much excitement developed through the fact coming to light that private letters passing through the Cannelton post-office had been opened without authority by persons professing to be spies of the government, in search of evidence against citizens suspected of disloyalty to the Union. The charge was a grave one, either way, but when finally sifted down, it became evident that personal animosity more than



national sentiment had instigated the accusation. No denial was ever made that some letters had been opened, but those tampered with were the business correspondence passing between non-resident property-owners, then living in the Confederacy, and the Cannelton lawyer who held their power of attorney.

This commotion quickly died out when the tidings came of the Battle of Pittsburg Landing with its tale of bloodshed, and a delegation of physicians and volunteer nurses was immediately formed in Cannelton to hasten to the battle-field and alleviate the suffering. Dr. Harmon S. Clark, surgeon with rank of captain in the Indiana Legion, headed the staff, Dr. William P. Drumb, Dr. Charles L. Soyez, John C. Wade, Peter Schmuck, John G. Hathorn, Joseph M. Galt, William McKinley, Sr., and Dwight Newcomb being his aides. Besides liberal contributions of cash and supplies, large quantities of linen—sheets, pillow-cases, shirts, bandages, etc.,—were speedily prepared by the women and forwarded to camp. On the return home of these benevolent volunteers, Doctor Clark delivered a public address (afterward published by request in the Reporter) describing their experiences, before a large audience in the Methodist Church.

The Fourth of July was celebrated in the customary manner all over the county, ushered in by ringing of bells, salutes of musketry and cannon, the display of bunting, and largely attended picnics. In the grove near Cannelton, Jacob B. Maynard delivered an oration, Master Huntington Smith (son of Hamilton Smith and nephew of Judge Huntington) read the Declaration of Independence, and the Legion gave a dress parade, Colonel Charles Fournier as commandant.

Renewed attempts for volunteers were made, following the national call of July 2 for 300,000 men. Captain W. H. Cornelius procured several enlistments at a war meeting in Cannelton later in the month and also on August 16, and a bounty fund of \$300 for the first company leaving the county under the call was

raised in a few hours at Cannelton by popular subscription. In Anderson Township Captain Andrew P. Batson had reorganized the "Hickory Rangers" and some of these enrolled for the war. A native of Sweden, October 16, 1824, and one of very few of such nationality in Perry County, Captain Batson came of seafaring parentage (Andrew and Magdalene (Dalsta) Batson) and in his boyhood had encountered many of a sailor's perils. He used to relate how upon the second of several voyages to Rio de Janeiro he was cruelly flogged with the cat-o'-nine tails for his inability to discover the captain's spectacles, which that officer later found over his own forehead. But a life on the rolling deep was not without its pleasure and romance, for at the age of twenty-two, when second officer on the ship "Ondickee" of Philadelphia, after sailing for two years from New Orleans under the Stars and Stripes, he met as a passenger from Sweden, Prudence Nixon, to whom he was married December 15, 1846. They arrived in Perry County on Christmas Eve of that year, and in 1847 located on the farm in Anderson Township where twelve children were born to them and where the remainder of their lives was spent.

In the eastern end of the county William O'Neill and Titus Cummings had been engaging recruits, and the call of August 4 for another 300,000 men, with conscription threatened, showed its effect in a growing response to all appeals. Before the middle of the month one company left the county and on August 22, at New Albany, were mustered into the Eighty-first Regiment as Company G, William O'Neill, captain; Titus Cummings, first lieutenant; John Arnold Hargis, second lieutenant. All these officers, with others non-commissioned, and a majority of the privates, were at the time or afterward residents of Derby and vicinity.

Just one week later the next company from Perry County were mustered in as Company K of the same regiment: William H. Cornelius, captain; William Mc-

Kinley, Jr., first lieutenant; John Lang Huckleby, second lieutenant. The regiment, under Colonel W. W. Caldwell, left the same day for Louisville, en route to the front, joining General Buell's brigade early in October, and acting as a reserve at the Battle of Perryville, the first of many—and more important engagements in which it participated. Few if any of Perry County's soldiery saw more valiant service than the men of the Eighty-first, who were at Stone River, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Rocky Face, Resaca, Kingston, Kenesaw, Marietta and the siege of Atlanta.

Even more men, however, were required to fill the heavy quota allotted to the county under the two calls of July and August, so work of further enlistment was actively taken up by Jerome Spillman and Narcisse J. Meunier. The latter soon left for Camp Noble with thirty men, and toward the close of the month the roster was complete. All were mustered in August 28, at Madison, as Company G of the Ninety-third Regiment; Jerome Spillman, captain; Campbell Welsh, first lieutenant; Narcisse J. Meunier, second lieutenant.

Following this there was a prolonged lull in the enlistment of men, and the services of Colonel Fournier were not needed as draft commissioner, Perry being one of only fifteen counties in the state furnishing every man demanded, and that, too, as volunteers with meagre bounty.

## CHAPTER XXV

### PROGRESS OF WAR

As a part of that plan of defense for the entire Indiana-Kentucky border during the winter of 1862-63, which distributed the Fifth Indiana Regiment at various points along the river from Lawrenceburg to Mount Vernon, a detachment of two cavalry companies, numbering two hundred men, commanded by Captain Banta and Captain Soper, landed on December 21 at Cannelton from the steamer Atlantic, pitching their tents temporarily on the parade-ground below town, going later into winter quarters on the Leopold Road northwest of the corporation line.

Appreciating the security from possible attack which their coming afforded, the generous and hospitable women of Cannelton arranged a celebration of New Year's Day, in which a bountiful home-cooked dinner was served at Mozart Hall as the principal feature. Representing the hostesses, a few cordial words of welcome were gracefully spoken by Miss Nancy Vaughan (Mrs. Wright-Abbot) for whom three rousing cheers were given by the boys in blue, before the Rev. William Louis Githens, of St. Luke's Church, asked the Divine blessing on the board of plenty. The weather was particularly fine, and after the ample meal had been discussed, the troops turned out for an exhibition drill and dress parade in compliment to their fair entertainers.

Acknowledgment of further and continued courtesies shown the soldiers was made through the public press more than once, thanking the ladies of Cannelton and vicinity for almost daily visits, baskets of good things, fine wines and other delicacies for the sick un-

der care of Surgeons L. J. Bruner and C. C. Hiatt. The discipline maintained in camp was excellent throughout, and the orderly conduct of the force reflected high credit upon privates as well as officers.

The same patriotic women continued their relief society, also Mrs. Ebenezer Wilber (Margaret Jackson) being president at this time, extending aid to any and all destitute families of soldiers absent from Perry County in their country's service, so that privation, wherever found, was humanely ministered unto. Liberal contributions were made all over the county, and a special donation of over fifty dollars was subscribed in small amounts by the employes of the sandstone quarries at Hamburg, near Rock Island, through their manager, James Napier, through whom it was transmitted to Mrs. John C. Wade (Jemima Edwards) of the charity committee.

There was little interest otherwise in military matters during the winter, save temporary excitement over news, often contradictory, of successes or reverses at the front, and the occasional visits of soldiers home on furlough. The Fifth Cavalry broke camp March 1, leaving Cannelton for Louisville on board the steamer Big Grey Eagle, one of the best-known mail-packets of the time, whose name distinguished her from a smaller vessel known as the Star Grey Eagle, having a star painted on her wheelhouse, both being side-wheelers in the Louisville and Henderson trade. Not long afterward the Government bought the Big Grey Eagle at a purchase price of \$50,000, having already taken over a sister boat of the same line, the Tarascon, for use in southern waters.

The Tarascon attained no little notoriety through several times making the trip between New Orleans and Mobile, a somewhat perilous passage not ordinarily attempted by craft of her build, and her sea-going quality of durability was given ten years' further endurance after the war, when she re-entered her old trade. Besides the historic interest of her military

service which made her the favourite packet between Louisville and Henderson, a whistle exceptionally musical in tone peculiarly identified and endeared her to every one along the coast, so that from the youngest to the oldest none failed to recognize the Tarascon's whistle at any hour of day or night. It had originally belonged to a small sidewheel packet of an opposing line, and the circumstances attending its change of ownership after the sinking of the rival steamer Eugene were regarded among river men as open to criticism. Whether or not the title in fee-simple was ever clearly defined, possession remained nine points of the law, and the whistle was for a short while on the Hettie Gilmore before transferred to the Tarascon.

When the gallant old Tarascon went to the bank for dismantling in the summer of 1877, the familiar sweet whistle was placed on her successor, the James Guthrie, whose maiden trip in the same trade was made on Christmas Day of that year. After a dozen years of use, the whistle was transferred to a new sternwheel boat, the Tell City, and in 1915 was once more placed upon a second, though smaller, Tarascon perpetuating a name honoured in the story of Ohio River navigation.

Among the homecoming soldiers, all, whether officer or private, received a heartfelt and royal welcome, and when their furloughs had expired were warmly bidden God-speed on their return to the field. Some of the fallen—Corporal Adam Schmuck, from Pittsburg Landing; Sergeant Samuel Wilde, from Murfreesboro; and Captain Joseph Rudd Key, from Perryville—had already been brought home amid silence broken only by "the muffled drums' sad roll" and laid down to their last, long rest—

"Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgment day."

An event, however, wherein the pride of patriotism dominated the pathos of pain, took place May 13, 1863, at Cannelton, a formal sword presentation, on behalf of

the ladies of Perry County, to Adjutant Thomas James de la Hunt, of the Twenty-sixth, who had been wounded four times in the Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, December 7, 1862.

After being shot from his horse, Adjutant de la Hunt fought on foot with heroic gallantry, only when too weak from loss of blood to stand creeping aside for shelter from the evening damp and the chill of death, under a haystack whence he watched what he believed to be his life's last sunset; in his heart the prayer of Daniel Webster, that he might "not see \* \* \* the broken and dishonoured fragments of a once-glorious Union." Two Confederates passing by in retreat took his sword, leaving him to die after his sole remark, "Gentlemen, you have the advantage of me," and it was past midnight when flickering lantern light revealed him, half-conscious, to those who had come in search of their beloved officer's body. Following a hundred days in hospital at Springfield, Missouri, he was able to return with shattered right arm to Cannelton, and the admiring women of his adopted county at once determined to make up to him the loss of that sword sacrificed at such cost upon their country's altar.

Mozart Hall, already the scene of so many memorable events in Cannelton's social no less than political history, was decorated with flags and flowers by the ladies, and after an overture from the fine band conducted by Nicholas Vollman, Samuel K. Connor as chairman introduced to the large assembly the eloquent Jacob B. Maynard, who fairly surpassed himself in the felicitous brilliancy of his tribute to "The Ladies":

"The Ladies, God bless them! When the day's dark and gloomy

    Their fortitude nerves and emboldens the brave;  
They linger like angels where Death holds his revels,  
    To comfort the dying on the verge of the grave.



"The Ladies, God bless them! They honour the worthy,  
Their hearts throb responsive to the patriot's story;  
And their hands and their hearts in unison labour  
To weave for the heroes fresh chaplets of glory."

"We have heard much said of woman's rights, her right to vote, her right to hold office; these and kindred rights have elicited warm discussions, but woman's right to be an angel has never been disputed. In the shining sphere of charity and tenderness she has no rival and must continue to sway her charmed sceptre so long as the world is capable of appreciating the noblest sacrifices, the tenderest sympathy and the purest benevolence that the human heart is capable of exhibiting.

"In the march of events, it may not be woman's prerogative to occupy the central position upon the canvas where History is painting its heroes, but without the delicate shading of her tenderness, the brilliancy of her genius, the sublimity of her fortitude, the devotion of her love, and the mellowing influence of her saintly presence, history would be shorn of its mightiest hold upon the minds of men. And at no time in the world's history has woman's influence been more prominently displayed than during the struggle through which our country is now passing. The patriotism of the mothers, wives and sisters of America in giving their sons, husbands and brothers, without a murmur, is a theme for the most gifted intellect, the most gorgeous fancy, the most fervid imagination, and to do it justice would exhaust the English language to its last letter. They have not only given these, but when the lightning has flashed the tidings of carnage and of death, they have stood ready by hundreds and thousands to make every sacrifice and endure every privation to alleviate the suffering, to comfort and console the dying patriot soldier.

"In this bright array the women of Indiana have been as conspicuous for deeds of sympathy and love as

the sons of Indiana have been for distinguished heroism. Indiana! The name of our gallant State sends a thrill of patriotic pride through every loyal heart in the land. Indiana! No star in the beaming constellation is more luminous. Indiana! Every footprint made by her noble army is a waymark on the road to victory. And the ladies of Indiana are treasuring up these noble deeds of her heroes, and will, as opportunity offers, make appropriate acknowledgment and pay a fitting tribute.

"It has been said that Republics are ungrateful, permitting benefactors of the State to linger in forgetfulness and sink into oblivion. I shall not discuss that point now, but one thing I am sure of, the Ladies of Cannelton and of Perry County are neither ungrateful nor forgetful. They remember and appreciate the bravery of those who entered the army from Perry County. Their prayers follow them to the battle-field. That they are honoured when they return, this bright array tonight would satisfy all, but that it may now be more fully demonstrated, allow me to introduce the Reverend Mr. Githens."

Some further music preceded the remarks made by the Rev. William Louis Githens, of St. Luke's Church, in delivering to Adjutant de la Hunt the elaborately wrought sword, with jeweled hilt, upon its scabbard a silver shield bearing the inscription:

PRESENTED TO  
 ADJ. THOS. J. DE LA HUNT  
 26TH REG. IND. VOLS.  
 ARMY OF THE FRONTIER  
 BY LADIES OF PERRY COUNTY,  
 INDIANA

One side of the blade showed the engraved date of the battle, "December 7, 1862"; the reverse, its scene, "Prairie Grove, Arkansas." The same affectionate spirit which characterized the reverend speaker's pul-

pit utterances displayed itself in a touching reference to the Adjutant's wounded right arm, and "the hand, now so helpless, which often seized the pen and wrote for our entertainment here at home such interesting descriptive letters, scenes of the battle-field and camp, of marches and soldiers' duties." "May you live," he said in conclusion, "to see the banner under which you fought, unfurled to the breeze, floating over our common country—united, happy, prosperous, peaceful—the land of the free and the home of the brave.' "

Adjutant de la Hunt's modest words in accepting the token, sought to share its honour with all his gallant comrades of the Twenty-sixth, many of whom slept in glorious but nameless graves all the way from the banks of the turbulent Missouri to the ensanguined slopes of Prairie Grove; and expressed the difficulty of separating an individual's personal courage from that caught through the grandeur of a supreme moment, or the sublime enthusiasm of companionship.

"But whether in the field or by the fireside, this gift I shall ever hold as my dearest treasure," spoke the Adjutant, "bequeathing it when I die, as my richest inheritance, to my truest, warmest patriot friend, with the solemn injunction that in the hour of his country's need this sword must leap from its scabbard, to flash in the sunshine and strike—for the unity, the glory and the honour of the United States of America." At the glowing climax of these words the band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner," amid great applause, and an hour of social conversation, diversified by popular songs, brought to its close an evening like no other witnessed in Cannelton.

Adjutant (later Major) de la Hunt was one of those Indiana Democrats who were true as steel to the national government, standing side by side with Republicans in the front of battle wherever the fight was deadliest, vying with each other in valourous charge of every forlorn hope. Looking backward, it can today be seen that patriotism was of the people, irre-

spective of party lines; and since the country rested then, as now, upon the people, not upon any party, so by the people was it saved in its hour of greatest peril.

"Indiana knows no North no South, nothing but the Union"—that matchless sentiment chiseled into the limestone block which was her state contribution to the Washington Monument, and marvellously forecasting the course of development which has kept for a generation the national centre of population within her borders, was never more true than during the War Between the States, although local politics had been urged to the bitterest extreme before Fort Sumter fell, and in the senseless heat of partisan argument many things were said which could be, and which were, construed to mean much more than was intended.

Thus, the famous Sixth Resolution, adopted at Cannelton on New Year's Day, 1861, led to the resignation, by request, of Major John James Key, a lofty patriot, commissioned by President Lincoln but forced out under pressure, because—*forsooth—he had been present* at the convention and had moved that a committee (of which he was never a member) be appointed to frame resolutions of whose tenor he, like everyone else, was necessarily in complete ignorance until they were offered by such committee before the meeting for consideration.

Whatever the actual facts, there was sure to be unlimited exaggeration of their extent and nature, for in a political campaign is invariably a season of misrepresentation; so, with excitement at its height, stump speakers wrangling in every county, acrimonious debates raging in the national Congress and state Legislatures, the lust for office spurring on candidates to use any means to secure votes, there is no cause for surprise in a widespread belief that popular support of the war was a proposition of extreme doubt in Indiana especially in the Southern counties. It has been practically settled that an organization existed, first known as "Knights of the Golden Circle" and afterwards as

"Sons of Liberty," whose object was some sort of opposition toward prosecuting the war for the preservation of the Union, and Perry County had more than one citizen at whose door was laid the charge of membership in such a society.

The divided sentiment among her own people had made Kentucky, during the earlier period of the struggle a scene of fierce and bloody local strife, so that she could not be reckoned upon by either of the great contending parties. With this fight to the death going on just across the Ohio, with the battle front between the Union and the Confederacy extending from Virginia to Missouri, with a sense of uncertainty harassing every one, with political schemers using their breath to fan the spark of discontent over the conscription into an open flame of rebellion, the strain of highest tension was undeniably reached at this period, yet the "silver cord" was *not* "loosed" and the "golden bowl" was *not* "broken."

"Copperhead" and "Butternut" were names first applied to persons regarded as directly or indirectly favourable to the South's cause, but later stood for all who opposed the Republican administration upon any ground. With all the personal faults attributed to Indiana's great "War Governor," Oliver Perry Morton was a patriot true, an executive of inflexible firmness, and made himself magically the master of circumstances. Realizing the necessity for exciting the war spirit to its highest pitch, and thinking he saw at the same time an opportunity for crushing the Democratic party, he did not hesitate to accuse his political opponents of treason outright, so that by his standard of measurement whoever differed from him in political understanding was a Butternut, a Copperhead, a traitor to the country.

This Draconian attitude was merely assumed in the vital exigency which the situation then presented. Governor Morton's earliest message, April 25, 1861, voiced the noblest of sentiment toward Kentucky as a sister

state, appealing to her "by the ties of common kindred and history, and by community of interests." Nor can it be denied, notwithstanding the violence of individual antagonism and the hostile demonstrations coming from both sides, that the relations of the best element in the two states existed upon a basis of mutual esteem.

No other two of the border States had been bound together by links of such peculiar intimacy for more than two generations. With fraternal devotion, born as joint-heirs of a Virginian heritage, Kentuckians had poured across the Ohio into Indiana forests to protect her scattered trading-posts and punish the devastating Indians tormenting her pioneers, through all the years from Fort Sackville to Tippecanoe. And since

"That one who breaks the way with tears  
Many shall follow with a song,"

so, with the passing years, business connections became closer, constant trade more valuable, and intermarriages strengthened all with happier ties of family kinship.

Upon the invitation of Governor Joseph A. Wright, Governor Thomas L. Crittenden, of Kentucky, became Indiana's guest at Indianapolis in 1854 for the interchange of hospitality of the purest friendly character, crowning with official recognition the *entente cordiale* of the two commonwealths. A striking historic event, this visit was shortly followed by a return, in which Kentucky generosity and liberality gracefully completed what the gratitude and respect of Indiana had so happily begun.

So, in every conflict and military movement of the War Between the States throughout Kentucky, Indiana troops were foremost. Their patriotic blood was cheerfully shed among the first to stain anew the soil of the erst "Dark and Bloody Ground" which had sent so many gallant defenders to protect the infancy of the Hoosier State. And for more than a year Indiana in

no small degree maintained toward her elder sister state that guardianship which had so long and affectionately cherished her own feeble childhood. Whether or not the indebtedness was fully discharged, nothing was omitted that traditional regard and earnest sense of duty could perform in appreciative acknowledgment of an admitted obligation.



## CHAPTER XXVI

### HINES' INVASION—MORGAN'S RAID

FORGETTING the proverbial truth "still waters run deep," many Southerners regarded the superficial froth on the waves of political campaigning in Indiana as indicating a strong undercurrent of popular sentiment, sufficiently powerful if brought to the surface to swamp the Union ship of state and give hundreds of eager Indianians an opportunity to cast in their fortunes with the Confederacy. An attempt to test the issue, therefore, was planned by John Morgan, the dashing young cavalry officer attached to General Braxton Bragg's army near Chattanooga, where he had already won a name for singular originality in leading his small command upon expeditions of the most fearless daring.

Early summer of 1863 found mighty armies facing each other near the Tennessee and Georgia state line, fairly under the shadow of Lookout Mountain, in daily expectation of some decisive battle. With the inexhaustible resources of the North behind the Union army, Bragg felt that General Rosecrans could fall upon him with overwhelming force unless some bold stroke in the rear could prevent the sending of reinforcements. Burnside, to the east, was near enough to harass Buckner (restored by exchange to his old command), and possessed a strong resource in General Judah's division of 5,000 excellent cavalry. The Confederate problem was how to avert the imminent danger of a blow from these horsemen upon Bragg's flank, so, with the double object of preventing this and at the same time keeping Judah from joining Rosecrans, Morgan advised a raid across the Ohio into Indiana. Plaus-

ibly he argued, from personal experience in Kentucky, that a charge into that state alone would be disastrously crushed out so quickly that its effects would not justify the hazardous risk of such an adventure; though he contended that a grand foray through Indiana would keep a large force of Northern troops for weeks upon his track.

General Bragg—always highly conservative—could not be brought to visualize the advantages of possible success to anything like the degree for which Morgan hoped. Knowing the perils of the proposed movement, fearing the effect upon his own remaining army which the isolation, and perhaps loss, of so valuable a cavalry force might have, Bragg would only consent that the dash should be made through Kentucky, expressly stipulating in his order that it should not extend beyond the Ohio. According, therefore, to the "History of Morgan's Raid," by General Basil W. Duke, the raid upon Indiana soil was made in positive disobedience of orders; and since, as his brother-in-law, confidential adviser and lieutenant, Duke had full access to Morgan's plans, the statement (quoted from his sprightly narrative, whose ability is admitted) leaves no room for doubt.

Its importance, after all, lies in its showing the disposition of Morgan to have his own way and to conduct his campaigns in a manner of peculiar independence, this being one secret of his fame and a magnet attracting to his standard so many of the adventurous Kentuckians who principally composed his command. With the recklessness born of desperation he determined to over-ride the orders of his superior, and conquer, if possible, the dangers encompassing the Confederate army in the Middle South by a sudden *coup d'état* which would carry consternation and dismay into hitherto peaceful Indiana. Curiously enough, it was a parallel instance of disobedience or insubordination on the part of another, one of his own captains, which largely discounted the anticipated surprise of

Morgan's raid, when it actually occurred, by placing the Indianians to some extent upon their guard.

During the month of May, 1863, Captain Thomas H. Hines, with a company of the Ninth Kentucky (Confederate) Cavalry, was detached from Morgan's division of Bragg's brigade in Tennessee, and sent to Kentucky to take charge of a camp for recruiting disabled horses, with further permission "to operate against the enemy north of the Cumberland River." This was not a bad piece of advance strategy on Morgan's part, the collection of extra mounts ahead of his arrival, had Hines only been content with his own part as head nurse to the convalescent steeds.

Restless and daring, however, he partook too much of Morgan's own temperament to remain quiet long, so interpreted in its widest possible scope his authority "north of the Cumberland," pushing across Kentucky with his relative handful of men until, on June 17, their eyes looked upon the Indiana hills of Perry County, and they watered their weary horses in the Ohio River between Rome and Derby, some eighteen miles east of Cannelton, at a point called Roberts' Landing.

By means of wood flats obtained through the assistance of Breckinridge County sympathizers, Hines' force of sixty-two men were ferried across as the first invaders of Perry County, thinking it would be huge sport to gallop around for awhile upon Northern soil and, incidentally, pick up as many fresh horses as might conveniently be found. Making arrangements with his ferrymen to meet him in about three days at a point agreed upon, Hines set forward into the interior, headed in the general direction of Paoli, Orange County, judiciously protecting his flanks as far as the limited extent of his force would allow by scouts thrown out.

With impudent assurance he represented himself and his gang as belonging to the Union army in the District of Kentucky, and claimed to be acting under orders from General Boyle, in search of deserters. Un-

der this assumed character he found at first but little difficulty in procuring a number of excellent horses, leaving in their stead his own jaded, broken-down animals, coolly giving vouchers in due form upon the Federal Quartermaster at Indianapolis for the difference in value, which he accommodately fixed at a liberal and satisfactory figure. The arrogant disguise, however, was soon penetrated. Before his arrival on the 19th at Valeene, Orange County, the whole secret of his mission had become known, and the alarm, amazingly exaggerated as to the strength of his force and the damage wrought, was spreading with miraculous rapidity through Perry, Crawford, Orange, Washington, Harrison and contiguous counties.

Word reached Cannelton that four or five hundred guerillas had invaded the county and were plundering all through the upper valley of Deer Creek, where they were said to have burned the Hinton Meeting-House. This report was altogether a hoax, but the alertness of the Fifth Regiment of the Legion was demonstrated in their speedy pursuit of Hines. Colonel Charles Fournier was then in command (succeeding Colonel Charles H. Mason, who had resigned in January, 1862, to accept an appointment as judge of the Common Pleas Court), and took active measures to defend the line of the river in the rear of the guerillas. Calling out as many mounted men as possible, he set forth from Cannelton toward Flint Island Bar above Derby, to protect the government ram Monarch, there aground and lying entirely exposed, as her destruction was first believed to be the object of Hines' raid.

Reaching the sandbar at ten o'clock at night, to learn that Hines had gone on northward and that there was scant probability of interference with the Monarch, Colonel Fournier, as a precautionary measure, placed part of his force in a position to give certain defense to the ram in case of attack, despatching the remainder, with the Second Battalion under Captain Jesse C. Esarey, as a troop sufficient to intercept the enemy at

Blue River Island, where, it was reported, he would attempt to recross the river. By thus moving in between Hines and his expected outlet, Colonel Fournier gave complete checkmate to the marauders, since a troop of sixty armed minute-men from Paoli under Major Robert E. Clendennin, with recruits from Valleene and neighbouring settlements, besides Major Horatio Woodbury's mounted Leavenworth battalion, were hot upon the guerilla trail, pressing with all speed toward the river.

The combined manoeuvre worked out most effectively. Compelled to fly for safety nearly a day sooner than he had counted on, Hines reached his first rendezvous on the Ohio at 2 p. m., June 19, only to find no ferry facilities available; Esarey's command in front, Woodbury's and Clendennin's in the rear offering sufficient strength to rout him completely; and no relief from boats to be thought of under the circumstances. On the horns of a dilemma, and scheming to avoid open conflict with the militia and citizens, Hines turned to the guide he had conscripted, for aid in finding another crossing place.

Nothing better could have suited Bryant Breeden the guide, a loyal Union man unwillingly impressed into the enemy's service. Through Findlay McNaughton, of the First Indiana Cavalry, whom Hines had captured and was holding in custody, a little son of Bryant's, following his father to see the fun, was sent back to Leavenworth with information of the plan to cross the river farther up, so the citizens could mount patrol guard with the steamer Izetta and aid the land forces in preventing the guerillas' escape. Determined to make the most of his position, Breeden caused a bewildering delay in finding what he reported as a practical ford, and the Izetta, fully armed, was under way upstream by the time Hines and his men had been lured three miles above to Blue River Island, where the Indiana channel is shallow and easily forded in the low stage of water there was at the time, but with a deep

channel and swift current between the island and the Kentucky shore.

Major Clendennin and Captain Esarey with their troops presently came upon the scene while discussion was going on, so without further parley the guerillas, thinking their only safety lay in crossing, plunged with their booty into the ford before them, and amid yells of derision soon reached the island. But their triumph was brief. While huddled together, viewing in dismay the rather unfavourable prospect beyond, Major Clendennin opened fire upon them. Hines discharged a few ineffectual random return shots, and as a last resort attempted to swim to the southern bank, only himself and two privates thus making a successful escape. At the psychological moment the Izetta arrived in the channel, and with a piece of artillery and small arms forced the enemy back to Indiana to surrender. Three men were killed, two drowned and three wounded, these last being included in the fifty men, one lieutenant and one captain who gave themselves up as prisoners of war and were sent to Louisville under orders from General Boyle.

Single-handed and alone, a few weeks later in Meade County, Kentucky, Captain Hines rejoined General Morgan, to whom he clung with a devotion which that dazzling chieftain seemed gifted to inspire, until the final collapse of the cause at issue, and which on the part of Hines was deepened by remorse over his own costly disobedience.

Just a week prior to Hines' invasion of Perry County, or June 11, 1863, John Morgan sallied forth from Alexandria, Tennessee, heading the hazardous expedition which was destined to end in the death or capture of nearly every man among the twenty-four hundred comprising its two divisions. Of the several hard skirmishes met with on the journey toward Indiana, that at the crossing of Green River is noteworthy as occurring on July 4, a day which General Morgan found no more auspicious than did General



Lee at Gettysburg or General Pemberton at Vicksburg, a singular fatality seeming to attend the Southern arms on Independence Day.

With the wide distance separating Pennsylvania from Mississippi, and the middle position of Kentucky, a curious picture of the distracted condition of our country is the fact that Morgan was completely ignorant of these results four whole days later, July 8, when from the heights of picturesque Brandenburg his piercing gaze swept the fertile lowlands of Harrison County, vast fields of wheat, cribs of yellow corn, pens of squeaking pigs, grazing herds of fat milch-cattle or nibbling sheep, poultry-yards noisy with cackling chickens, everything that famished horses or equally hungry riders could crave, at hand for them, whither-soever the roads led.

Morgan's very name had become a note of uneasiness ringing in the ears of his enemies, and grave was the alarm felt in Perry County when news of his immediate approach from the South was received. Instant preparations for defense were begun. Valuables were hastily concealed and plans laid for sending women and children to remote places of security, but the terrible nervous tension was relaxed when the arrival of the mail packet, Lady Pike, brought tidings that the guerillas had crossed at Brandenburg, on board the John T. McCombs, which an advance squad under Captain Taylor and Captain Meriwether of the Tenth Kentucky (Confederate) had seized at two o'clock in the afternoon of July 7.

Fortune apparently smiled upon the invaders, the larger steamer Alice Dean being also captured only a few hours later, so that two vessels were available for ferriage as fast as the remaining troops arrived from Salt River. Two regiments had been transported when a gun-boat steamed down the river, beginning a fire which for a time threatened to cut in twain the guerilla force, but the battery of Parrott guns adroitly planted on the bluff, near "Park Place," the home of



Judge John W. Lewis, soon silenced interference, and ere long the entire command was in motion upon Indiana soil, outside of and away from Perry County, so that the further story of Morgan's Raid passes beyond this chronicle.

It should only be added that as Morgan swept northward from the river with pyrotechnic velocity he did not dream that the army of veterans with which Lee had invaded Pennsylvania—the finest flower of Southern manhood, a hundred thousand strong—was already cut to pieces, nearly one-third its number killed, wounded or captured, and its defeated yet unconquered remnant in full retreat across the Potomac. Strange to him and his followers, then, seemed the flags and bunting displayed on houses left open without an inmate to protect their contents against pillage. In deserted streets were half-cooled ashes of bonfires giving evidence of rejoicing over Union victories. Through a telegraph operator named Ellsworth the guerillas eventually learned that the Mississippi River at last lay open to Federal gunboats for its full length, and that the supposedly invincible Army of Virginia had been driven back. Perhaps the next news might be that Rosecrans had crushed Bragg and was pouring through the Georgia hills to Atlanta.

Where, then, were the thousands of Butternuts and Copperheads who had been standing ready to join the Confederate army? Instead of helpers or comrades the amazed raiders found everywhere empty houses, and bodies of armed men who shot at them to kill. "In a word," as Maurice Thompson, himself of Southern lineage and Confederate affiliation, has written, "Indiana was loyal. Her men might wrangle and squabble, might call one another hard names in the heat of local politics, yet when it came to choosing between Union and Secession, all stood together for the old Flag and the Constitution."

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### BOMBARDMENT OF HAWESVILLE

“BOOM! Boom!” roared the thunder of artillery across the placid Ohio from Cannelton to Hawesville one sultry morning in July, 1864. Nor was it a peaceful salute, but a discharge of actual warfare from the Federal gunboat Springfield (No. 22 of the Ohio and Mississippi fleet), then lying at anchor before Cannelton for the town’s protection, and the solitary instance when naval cannon were fired in defense of Indiana soil.

As the war progressed, drawing more and more of Perry County’s able-bodied men into the army, on the opposite side of the river a smaller proportion from Hancock County had regularly enlisted, either for the Union or the Confederacy, so that Hawesville, like many other localities in Kentucky, was left practically at the mercy of the many irregular squads of unattached cavalry, whose piratical incursions were the least creditable feature of the conflict. The best and most responsible citizens on either side, whatever their affiliations, were sincerely opposed to border hostilities, wishing as far as possible to maintain peaceable relations with their lifelong neighbours, leaving the momentous questions at stake to be settled *vi et armis* on distant battlefields by the recognized leaders of both parties.

Troops of the Perry County Legion had more than once gone to the defense of Breckinridge and Hancock Counties against plundering marauders, whose depredations were a menace to every quiet home. The knowledge of this intensified the antagonism of the guerillas, who several times slipped into and out of

Hawesville, and their bitterest animosity was directed toward Cannelton, as the county seat and centre of Perry County troops, notwithstanding her chief industrial plants represented the investment of New Orleans and Louisville capital.

The favourite threat among the fire-eating Southrons was, "We'll come across and burn your cotton mill for you," a taunt repeated with increasing vehemence after John Morgan's spectacular dash across Harrison County in the preceding year. His first defeat, and the imprisonment in Ohio from which he escaped, exercised no restraint upon the scouting bands assembled from time to time in Kentucky, and since the geographical position of Cannelton exposed the town with peculiar strategic weakness as a possible point of attack, the government detached from the lower flotilla Captain Edmond Morgan's vessel, the Springfield, ordering him to guard the port of Cannelton during the summer of 1864.

This duty was almost a furlough for Captain Morgan, compared with his earlier experiences. Born in an aristocratic English family, his father being Captain Edmond Morgan, Sr., of the Buckinghamshire Guards, he had been at the age of thirteen a commissioned midshipman in the Royal Navy, participating creditably in the brief but bloody Crimean War. At its close he came, a soldier of fortune, to America where a near relative, Lord Lyon, was then at Washington as Queen Victoria's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Through Lord Lyon's friendship with Admiral Porter young Morgan was given a special position as squadron instructor, to teach sword practice and the sighting and firing of heavy ordnance.

His sympathies being with the North, Morgan soon accepted a commission in the United States Navy and entered a stirring period of his life. He became a blockade runner, commanding a flotilla of twelve steamboats that crept down the Mississippi one stormy night and spiked the batteries of Island Number Ten,

allowing the bottled-up Federal fleet to steam toward Vicksburg. Following this, he headed an expedition up the Cumberland River to seize the southern iron foundries, an exploit of constant fighting and prodigious labour, such as the burning of twelve bridges. For both these feats he received high tribute from the War Department and special recognition from Congress.

Contrasted with such thrilling service the Cannelton appointment seemed mere pastime. Very gay was the social life of the little town during that long summer, its patriotic families vying with each other in the hospitable attentions they were pleased to extend to the gallant officers and marines who were their protectors, nor were these lacking in return courtesies, even on board their somewhat austere vessel. The Springfield was a sternwheel boat approximating in size the present Louisville and Evansville packets, but completely sheathed with iron plates, pierced only by apertures for her guns. Her pilot-house was surmounted by a handsome pair of stag antlers, taken from a deer shot in southwestern Missouri, not far from New Madrid before the capture of Island Number Ten, and these are perhaps the only material souvenir of the Springfield yet in existence.

Well-nigh forgotten had been the strife of war until one Monday morning, July 25, to be exact, was made memorable by the bombardment of Hawesville, and about ten o'clock some rapid firing called a curious crowd to the river bank for a sight wholly new and ever since without a parallel. There was a deep bass hum-m-m, a sharp whiz-z-z, a beautifully perfect wreath of smoke issuing from the cannon's mouth; then in the distance, a few feet from the earth, a pure white cloud started out of the clear air, and five seconds later returned the hollow, reverberating boom-m-m.

Nor was sound the only emotion, for the scene was equally exciting. A shell would burst over some Kentucky home, driving out half a dozen terror-stricken inmates; a strong current of women and children was

setting toward the lower part of town, a goodly number hastening within the thick stone walls of the Roman Catholic Church for protection, while many negroes, as they were reminded of safe retreat in the Trabue coal mines, fled thither and looked not behind, believing that the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah had befallen their village.

While frightened Hawesville thus sought the shelter of distance, rock walls and caves in the earth, open-mouthed Cannelton stood agog to witness the exhibition. Shelling a town was, indeed, a rare show for Indiana citizens. There were the finest facilities for observation, abundant ammunition, and not a whit of danger. About twenty shells were discharged and all was over. A thousand stories were instantly in circulation, impossible to record and foolish to deny.

The substance of the affair was that Captain Morgan had received information of guerillas entering Hawesville, and with great caution sent into the town a few shells which did no damage to person and none of consequence to property. He had no opportunity for warning the residents to leave, but by personal superintendence of every piece pointed and every fuse fired, saw that no danger should be incurred by inoffensive citizens of the place. His generous offer, immediately made public, to remunerate from his private purse any one whatever, to the full extent of any loss they might have sustained, was an honourable pledge to the careful discharge of his official duty as protector of the peace and dignity of both towns.

Among the attractive young girls of Cannelton were three often grouped together as "belles" in name and fact, Miss Isabelle Beacon, Miss Isabelle Kirkpatrick and Miss Isabelle Huckleby, all of whom eventually wedded army men. Most youthful of the three and the youngest child, as well, of Joshua B. Huckleby, was Miss Huckleby, who was married in after years to Major Thomas James de la Hunt, of General Hovey's staff. Her two brothers were in the Federal army

(Captain John Lang Huckleby, of the Eighty-first Indiana, and William Lamb Huckleby, engineer on the gunboat Peytona). Their parents took particular pains in entertaining Captain Morgan at their home "Virginia Place," with its square-pillared verandah after an Old Dominion model, and no other guests were more warmly welcomed than Miss Beacon and Miss Kirkpatrick.

With the approach of autumn the wane of the Confederacy had distinctly set in, so that fear of guerilla annoyance was over. The Springfield was ordered to join her fleet at New Orleans, steaming away down the river, to be seen at Cannelton no more. The antlers were Captain Morgan's parting gift to his little friend, Miss Huckleby, but a more tender trophy, his heart, he left behind with Miss Beacon. Before the summer roses bloomed again in Cannelton gardens Richmond had fallen, Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, Lincoln had been assassinated, and when Captain Morgan next came, in piping times of peace, he wore uniform no longer but was in citizen's garb to claim his promised bride.

Of the gay wedding party from both Indiana and Kentucky assembled in the old Beacon homestead, only one remains half a century later on the old stamping ground, Colonel Franklin Lander, of Hawesville, perhaps the one man of his vicinity who at all times happily bridged any social gulf between North and South, counting by the score his warm personal friends in the armies of both the Union and the Confederacy. Esteemed as "Cousin Frank" by young and old alike, he stands an admirable example of the polished gentleman of the *ancien régime*. In the old-fashioned, low-ceilinged, long drawing-room of "Virginia Place" the antlers occupy the post of honour above a bay-window looking—today, as it did fifty years earlier—toward the hills of Kentucky, across the Beautiful River, "whence the fleets of iron have fled."

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### CLOSE OF WAR.

THE presidential campaign of 1864 was decidedly spirited all over Indiana, and into Perry County were sent many leading men of both political parties, speeches being delivered by Thomas A. Hendricks and William H. English among others. Owing to the absence of so many voters with the army the number of ballots cast was greater by only fifteen than that of four years previously, although there had been some increase in the actual population of both Cannelton and Tell City. The votes polled gave as a result: Lincoln and Johnson, 1,112; McClellan and Pendleton, 1,042; showing that popular sentiment was still with the administration, despite a certain degree of bitterness engendered by the conscription and skilfully nurtured for partisan ends.

Three full companies—293 men—were the quota required from the county by the staggering draft of July 18, 1864, and conscription was seen to be inevitable, though strenuous efforts were made, under the leadership of Judge Charles H. Mason, toward raising a bounty fund in Troy Township, where 176 volunteers were called for. While the Springfield was stationed at Cannelton some seventeen men from the vicinity enlisted for gunboat service; and up to the autumn forty-five recruits had been sent to the Twenty-sixth Regiment; ten or twelve to the Thirty-fifth; about fifteen to the Forty-ninth; a dozen to the Fifty-third, and sundry small squads to other commands. But the draft could not be escaped, and late in September 185 men were conscripted, thus distributed among the townships:



Troy, 123; Oil, 21; Clark, 19; Anderson, 11; Tobin, 11; Leopold and Union having furnished their proportion.

About this time it became evident and was later acknowledged that through failure in making proper reports to headquarters of all her recruits under the last few calls, Perry County had not received her full credit for men in service, so the omissions were corrected, and some few others similarly discovered were beneficially rectified. The men conscripted went to New Albany during October and were assigned to various regiments. The final call of the war for troops, December 19, 1864, met with but meagre response, another draft being foreseen, though the liberal bounty offered—\$640—had its effect in sending some men to the old regiments, as it was felt that Sherman's March to the Sea was the beginning of the end.

About thirty-five men enlisted in Company I, of the One Hundred and Forty-fourth Regiment, mustered in squads during February, 1865, William H. Kyler becoming second lieutenant when regimental organization was effected March 6, at Indianapolis. By the draft of this same month at Jeffersonville, 44 men were conscripted from Troy Township, 19 from Clark, 17 from Oil, 8 from Leopold, the remaining townships having fully cleared themselves. But few of these entered actual service, owing to the speedy close of the war, but they were accredited to Perry County, placing her upon the honour roll of fifteen among Indiana's ninety-two counties which filled every call, besides her excellent record of no less than nineteen Home Guard companies in the Indiana Legion, of which they formed the Fifth Regiment.

Colonel Charles Fournier had maintained his entire command in camp along the river between Rono (Magnet) and Troy, during the autumn months of 1864, on constant guard and patrol duty, a precaution rendered necessary by the appearance on the Kentucky border of guerilla forces with the presumable purpose of crossing the river to aid malcontents in resisting the draft, a

plan of invasion which their own safety required them to abandon. A Confederate force under Major Walker Taylor took possession of Hawesville in December, notifying the Union commander that if left in undisturbed occupancy of that town they would refrain from molesting Cannelton of its citizens. Colonel Fournier met Major Taylor on board the ferry-boat Major Prescott in mid-river to discuss the proposition, but no terms were agreed upon and the interview ended all communication.

On December 23 a troop of marauders headed by William Davidson boarded with their horses the Louisville and Henderson packet Morning Star at the Lewisport landing, twelve miles below Cannelton, shooting four Union soldiers, drowning the negro steward, robbing the passengers of their money and valuables, after which the captain was compelled to take the guerillas to Hawesville, omitting all intermediate landings. Samuel K. Groves and wife (Eliza Huston Huckleby) of Rome, had ninety-five dollars taken from them, while another passenger, Paul Beisinger, suffered the loss of six hundred and ninety-five dollars, Davidson insolently writing out a receipt which he flung in the captains' face: "Received of steamer Morning Star five hundred dollars."

Directly upon learning of this outrage, Colonel Fournier trained his against the Kentucky shore and called out all the companies at his command. A sufficient force could not be rallied during the night to cross the river with any prospect of success against the very considerable guerilla band just then collected there, but the enemy was effectually routed at an early hour the next morning by some few well-aimed shots thrown through the streets of Hawesville from the ten-pound Dahlgren gun which General Love had brought to Cannelton in September, 1862.

This process so vividly recalled to all the citizens of Hancock County Captain Edmond Morgan's brief bombardment only a few months earlier that even most

ardent Confederate sympathizers cheerfully discontinued any extended hospitality toward guests whose presence entailed such calamity upon their entertainers, so the guerillas ate their Christmas dinners elsewhere than in Hawesville.

Doubly joyous, however, through the restored sense of security, was Cannelton's holiday merry-making, and a charity entertainment brought together in Mozart Hall a crowded assembly to witness one of the amateur theatrical entertainments always so popular with a generation who never dreamed that celluloid films would one day supersede the spoken drama in public favour.

Right generous, too, was the carnival programme offered—charades, tableaux vivants, and drama, interspersed with music. Misses Isabelle Beacon (Mrs. Edmond Morgan), Emeline McCollum (Mrs. Alfred Vaughan), and Indiana Vaughan (Mrs. Samuel King), were among the notable charade performers. French history was drawn upon for a tableau in three scenes, "The Divorce of Josephine," rendered with sumptuous fidelity to detail. Mrs. Charles H. Mason (Rachel Huckleby) a woman of superb appearance, impersonated the unfortunate Empress with artistic accuracy of costume, attitude and expression, Miss Sallie Marshall supporting her in the role of the beautiful Hortense. Captain Edward N. Powers represented Napoleon, with Captain John P. Dunn as Marechal Ney.

Appropriate to the holiday season the principal play staged was the ever-new "Cinderella," in which Miss Mary Jaseph (Mrs. John H. Wade) played the title part, with Miss Mollie Archer (Mrs. Schmuck-Hofmeister) as the fairy godmother whose wand of enchantment wrought its miracle over the pumpkin. Mrs. John H. Thompson (Margaret Patterson), Misses Hattie Patterson (Mrs. Simeon Jaseph, Jr.), and Madge Armstrong (Mrs. Edwin R. Hatfield) enacted the cruel stepmother and haughty stepsisters. Palmer Smith and William Huckleby Ferguson were popular comic singers, and the closing tableau, "The Death of Minne-

haha" was accompanied by a musical recitative, Miss Isabelle Huckleby (Mrs. de la Hunt) having composed her own setting to Longfellow's poetry, a melody of surpassing pathos, never given to publication.

Several of the same performers, with many others, took part in a similar entertainment during the same winter, in aid of the Methodist Church; and for the benefit of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, which had been damaged by fire, the most ambitious histrionic effort ever attempted in Cannelton was produced early in May, an abridgment of the "Merchant of Venice," rehearsed and staged under the personal supervision of Mrs. Hamilton Smith (Louise Rudd).

A literary club giving particular attention to Shakespeare had existed for one or two winters among the young people, humourously styled "The Parsonage Literary Institute," with the Rev. William Louis Githens at its head, so that Mrs. Smith found plastic material ready for her moulding hand. Shylock, Joseph W. Snow; Duke, Edwin R. Hatfield; Bassanio, Sidney B. Hatfield; Antonio, Thomas James de la Hunt; Portia, Miss Isabelle Huckleby; and Nerissa, Miss Margaret Armstrong, were the leading characters of the cast. Contemporary accounts give high praise to the rendition, especially the Trial Scene, where the fair young doctor, the "wise and excellent young man," delivered, with beautiful conception of masculine strength made subservient to the delicate perception and unbounded love of a cultured woman, that matchless appeal for mercy, the noblest lines ever penned by "sweetest Shakespear, Fancies childe." An element of romance underlay it all, by no means lost upon the audience of familiar friends who afterward accused Antonio of being more captivated by the curling ringlets escaping below Portia's hood, and the bewitching sweetness of her undisguised accents, than by the acumen of her legal pleading. A double bill was invariably expected by the audience, so the perennial "Mistletoe Bough" was given as the afterpiece, Miss Mollie Archer win-

ning unbounded compliments by her charmingly attractive delineation of Ginevra the Missing Bride.

The fall of Richmond and removal of the Confederate capital to Danville filled all hearts with joy at the beginning of April, as it was realized that the end could be a matter of days only, and the tidings of Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House was welcomed with jubilant demonstrations all over the county. Homes and public buildings were decorated with the national colours by day and illuminated at night, while bonfires lit the heavens, salutes of cannon and musketry rent the air, bands played, and exultant people ran to and fro, shaking each other by the hand in congratulation.

Into the midst of this universal rejoicing the news of Lincoln's assassination came like a bolt from the blue, bringing a revulsion of unspeakable terror to all. As after the taking of Fort Sumter, so again the fatal message reached Perry County by boat at an early hour upon a Sunday—April 16, the morning of Easter Day. But not even the spiritual joy of the Risen Lord could comfort the first outbursts of indignant grief over the martyred chief of a mighty nation, nor soften the furious passion felt toward his murderer.

By the following day mourning draperies had supplanted the tri-coloured bunting, and a public mass-meeting was held pursuant to call, at Cannelton, in the Court House solemnly festooned with black. Joshua B. Huckleby presided as chairman, Gabriel Schmuck acting as secretary, and the object of the meeting was impressively stated by Judge Charles H. Mason, with a sadness befitting the unprecedented occasion. A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions, during their absence the large audience listening to brief remarks from Edwin R. Hatfield, Walter Bynum and G. B. T. Carr. The series of resolutions, eight in number, were then read by Judge Mason, eloquently voicing the sorrow of Perry County over the dastardly crime, at the same time expressing a fixed determination to

spare no effort nor sacrifice toward vindicating the supremacy of the government, reuniting the Union, and accomplishing complete restoration of national authority.

After unanimous adoption of the resolutions by a rising vote, Major de la Hunt was called upon and spoke, with deep emotion, of how "all over the land from where 'the mournful and misty Atlantic' moans under the beetling cliffs of New England, to where the sunbeams and zephyrs of California's golden shores sighingly whisper their story to the great Pacific" the people were bewildered with sorrow. "The lover of his country," he said, "has lost the noblest of presidents; the vanquished, the most benevolent of conquerors."

A further brief address was made by Major Nicholas L. Lightfoot, of Hancock County, Kentucky, who had spoken on the preceding day at the Court House in his own home town of Hawesville, where all other plans for Easter Day had been entirely set aside, flags draped in mourning, and bells tolled incessantly as for a funeral. In the morning, the Rev. Samuel C. Helm had preached an appropriate discourse at the Methodist Church South, and in the afternoon a becoming funeral sermon was delivered by the Rev. James H. Brown, in the Baptist Church, the entire community, whether Union or Confederate, acting and feeling truly alive to the great and unexpected calamity which had bereft Kentucky of a native son no less than a national executive.

That undaunted loyalty which has been a characteristic of the Switzer race from the days of Walter Fuerst and Herrman—asserting itself in Arnold Winkelried, and again in the deathless courage of ill-starred Marie Antoinette's *Garde Suisse*, immortalized by Thorwaldsen in his Lion of Lucerne—shone with its olden lustre under Indiana skies, and the valiant colonists of Tell City who went forth in '61 to fight for the altars and fires of their infant community, mourned with profoundest sorrow the loss of their beloved president in



'65. Nowhere in Perry County was deeper sentiment manifested than in the memorial exercises at Tell City, and meetings of similar nature were held in Troy, Rome, Leopold and other places. On the day of the funeral St. Luke's Church, Cannelton, was opened for solemn service which a large congregation attended. The Episcopal burial office was read by the rector, the Rev. William Louis Githens, and the Methodist pastor, the Rev. J. B. Likely, delivered an address which brought tears into many eyes unaccustomed to weep.

No military occurrences followed this, save the return from time to time of the boys in blue, and Independence Day witnessed a public picnic in their honour, held on "Brier Hill," and managed by a committee of women at whose head were Mrs. Charles H. Mason (Rachel Huckleby), Mrs. Daniel L. Armstrong (Susan James), and Miss Kate Kolb. General Walter Q. Gresham, announced as speaker of the day, was unable to fulfil his engagement, and Edwin R. Hatfield made an able substitute in the grace of fluent oratory. Ferdinand Mengis, of Tell City, spoke to the Germans present in their mother tongue, and the sounding aisles of the green woods rang once more with the anthem of the free, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The knowledge that the cruel war was over filled "to its highest topsparkle each heart and each cup," though among the sturdy lads who had gone away in youth's flush of health, some came home as aged men of broken constitution, with perhaps an empty sleeve or frightful scars. Others had crossed the river to rest under the shade of the trees, in the faraway Southland "where all the golden year the summer roses blow." Whether the resting place of their sacred dust is marked today by gleaming marble or lost under the verdure of fifty fleeting years, both North and South have come at length to realize that for Federal and Confederate hero alike,

"Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead."



## CHAPTER XXIX

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

AN industry which for a time during the sixties promised much to Cannelton, and whose failure in fulfilment came about through outside rather than local causes, was the ship-yard undertaken in the spring of 1863 by Samuel King, who removed at that time from Jeffersonville to Perry County. Although born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (October 16, 1821), he came of seafaring stock, his father, John W. King, having commanded a sailing vessel in the West Indies trade for many years, and his mother, Nancy Shaw, was also of a New England coast family.

Purchasing from Dow Talbot the saw-mill at the extreme upper edge of Cannelton which had been originally owned by the pioneer, Israel Lake, he entered upon the independent trade of boat building which he had followed through twenty-five years of work for others.

His first and most successful contract was with Captain John W. Carroll, of New Albany, for whom he built the hull of a fine side wheeler whose model proved notably fast, 255 feet long, 43 feet beam, 8½ feet hold. At 4 p. m. Monday, November 2, 1863, the launching took place in presence of a very large crowd, the commander's handsome daughter christening the vessel with her own name, Pauline Carroll. The hull was then taken to New Albany where the cabin and upper works were added.

In February following, work was begun on a floating dock of enormous size, 250 by 110 feet, 30 feet high at the sides and 10 feet at the ends. For its construction 2,500 oak logs were sawed into nearly a million feet

of lumber, a cost approximating \$27,000. May 21, 1864, the large Ben Stickney was launched for the Southern trade, and some smaller craft, including Captain John Crammond's recess-wheel ferry boat Transit, were built complete at the Cannelton ship-yard, but the unwieldy dock proved a veritable white elephant upon King's hands.

It was eventually sold at great sacrifice, to be towed to New Orleans, and, as the wane of steamboating had already set in, King never fully recouped his fallen fortunes. He continued, however, to operate the saw-mill until 1884, when he sold out to Anton Zellers and Sons, locating for the remainder of his life on a farm in the fertile bottom land of Union Township, between Derby and Dexter. By his marriage, October 16, 1867, to Rachel Indiana, daughter of Nicholas and Ann (Ewing) Vaughan, he had one son, whose son now resides on a portion of the inherited acres.

Another contemporary enterprise, of longer duration though now also defunct, was the pottery and tile works begun in 1862 by the Clark Brothers who then came to Cannelton from Summit County, Ohio, and for forty years were a prominent clan in local matters, being men of marked activity, interesting themselves in everything appertaining to the home of their adoption.

They were the offspring of Roan and Margaret (DeHaven) Clark, representing Pennsylvania ancestry, and the children were: 1. Roan, m. Lucinda Carson; 2. Abraham DeHaven, m. Emma Gest; 3. William, m. Alice Johnson; 4. James, m. Rebecca Thompson; 5. Elijah Curtis, m. Hester (Cotton) Clark; 6. Martha, m. Cyrus Clark, also of Ohio, but not a relative, although a nephew to Dr. Harmon S. Clark, of Cannelton.

The respective six households of "The Clarks" formed a numerous and happy family connection, given to cordial hospitality and figuring no less in the social life than in business and politics of their day. Not-

withstanding the originally large relationship, but few descendants of Clark name still reside in Cannelton, the third generation having widely scattered into other localities, and a pottery started many years afterward by Clark Brothers represents altogether a different family, despite close similarity of names.

The first pottery was built in 1862 on the river front, for convenience of transportation, and the business increased to such an extent (\$2,700 a month by 1877) that their own steamboat was purchased for carrying the finished product to Southern consumers. Several additions had more than doubled the capacity of the original plant, but from about that time there was a gradual decline in receipts. Death and other changes brought about different ownership. Freshet, wind-storm and fire wrought irreparable disaster, so the work was finally shut down.

A three-story brick spoke factory was erected at the close of the war by a number of leading citizens, but owing to internal dissensions the project was abandoned after the expenditure of almost \$8,000 on the building which remained idle until 1871-72. The Cannelton Paper Mill Company then took it over and began the manufacture of straw wrapping paper at the rate of 2,500 pounds in thirteen hours. Ten hands were employed and the stockholders were: Joseph F. Sulzer, president; Christian Rauscher, vice-president; Roan Clark, secretary; Peter Meyer, treasurer; John C. Shoemaker, Jacob Heck, Frederick Diener, Frank Brennan and Frederick Muller. Work continued some ten or fifteen years, but the edifice burned during one of the spring floods of the 'eighties when entirely surrounded by water and inaccessible to any fire protection. Its ruins long stood next to the Clark pottery.

Immediately south of the paper-mill a three-story brick flouring mill was built in 1868-69, under the name Superior Mills, with Gabriel Schmuck, Edwin R. Hatfield, Henry N. Wales, Joseph F. Sulzer, Thomas Tagg and Joseph Dusch as stockholders. Charles

Schmuck soon became associated with his brother and continued to operate the mill until 1880, when it was sold to the brothers, Philip R. and Leonard May. They were natives of Prussia, born respectively December 1, 1840, and May 23, 1842, the elder sons of Charles and Elizabeth (Jacoby) May, and at an early age were brought to Indiana by their parents, who made their home on a farm near Rome, until in 1864 Charles May was elected Sheriff of Perry County. The sons, Philip and Leonard, had enlisted in 1861 in Company B, Third Kentucky Cavalry, so on their return from the war it was to reside in Cannelton, where with other branches the May family has ever since been represented. After some twenty years of varying but usually indifferent success, in which the mill changed hands more than once, it finally suspended, peculiar ill-luck appearing to attend that quarter of town in which these industries of the 'sixties were located.

A chair factory, carried on from 1872 to 1876 by James R. Bunce and Thomas M. Smith, in a massive stone structure which Judge Ballard Smith had built in 1857 for a cotton carpet yarn factory, failed, and one or two later enterprises attempted in the same edifice accomplished little or nothing.

A shingle mill, started at the close of the war by John Stiltz, was later sold to the May Brothers and by them in 1880 to William Donnelly, but suspended a few years later and its site on the river is now occupied by the municipal water works and electric power plant.

The American Cannel Coal Company's coal slide and tip, which terminated their dummy tramway leading from their Sulphur Spring mines to the river, was the last industry maintaining operations in Cannelton's early manufacturing quarter, but when the sale of coal to passing steamboats became a negligible quantity, it was abandoned and demolished, about 1910, transportation by rail having forever drawn away business activity to the opposite end of town.

The manufacture of chairs in Tell City, which has

developed into one of her most considerable interests, had its beginning in 1864, when Peter Ludwig, John Hartman and James M. Combs invested some \$3,300 in buildings and machinery, giving employment to about thirty-five men. First known as P. Ludwig and Company, the firm became Combs, Hartman and Company, in 1868, when they commenced making furniture—bureaus, wardrobes, tables, etc.,—in addition to chairs. In spite of vicissitudes, such as the financial panic of 1873, and a fire on March 27, 1877, which swept away the entire plant at a loss of \$32,000, with only \$2,000 insurance, the company has gone on through many changes of ownership and is now part of the Chair-Makers' Union.

Ten stockholders—J. J. Walter, J. Hoby, L. Greiner, F. Rust, B. Wichser, J. Bergert, I. Scheuing, L. Schmidt and Henry Ehrensperger—founded the original Chair-Makers' Union in 1865, investing some \$7,000 in building and equipment and doing most of their own work. The inevitable fire occurred July 27, 1881, without insurance, leaving no resources other than a standing book account, but the owners rallied promptly and the business was soon on a stronger footing than ever before.

Now one of Perry County's largest industrial establishments, its leading owners are Albert P. Fenn, one of Tell City's "native sons," and his brother-in-law, Jacob Zoercher. They are respectively, a son-in-law and a son of Christian Zoercher, Sr., born September 5, 1832, in Bavaria, who came in 1851 to America and in 1868 to Tell City, where he identified himself with the woodworking interests. While not strictly a pioneer, he lived there so long as to win for himself a place among the old and highly esteemed citizens, and through his marriage, in 1859, with Mary Christ, of Cincinnati, numerous descendants maintain the family name.

The finished products of the Chair-Makers' Union are found everywhere in the United States, and its

wagons drive into almost every township in Perry County carrying chair frames to the labourers—oftenest women and children—who put in the cane seats by hand.

A local stock company of numerous share-holders in 1865-66 built an Agricultural Implement factory, expending \$5,000 on building and machinery. Cotton and hay presses were manufactured for a short time, but the company failed and in 1869 the property passed into the hands of twenty-eight men forming the Cabinet-Makers' Union. As such its career has been of increasing success, interrupted only by fires, from which the organization has each time risen to longer life. Shipments are now, of course, by rail, but in the generation of river traffic, steamboats bound for Memphis or New Orleans would frequently tie up for several hours at the Tell City wharfboat taking on immense cargoes of furniture and chairs.

Schoetlin and Zuenkler, in 1865, started the Tell City Planing Mill, at an investment of \$3,000, selling out two years afterward to a partnership of six men, whose interests were bought out, in turn, by Magnus Kreisle. He had learned the cabinet maker's trade in Germany, where he was born September 9, 1824, coming in 1844 to Cincinnati. Here he was married to Christine Eckhardt, and they moved in 1856 to Indianapolis where their eldest son, John M. Kreisle, was born June 28, 1857. Locating in Tell City four years later, Magnus Kreisle made it his home until his death, March 18, 1885, at which time he was in complete control of the planning mill business that is yet a family possession.

The Krogman distillery, established 1863 by Philippe and Krogman at a cost of \$5,000, is another industry still operated by the family of its founder. August Krogman was born December 28, 1821, in Holstein, Germany, where his parents, Johann and Margrethe Krogman passed their lives. He learned the distilling business in his native land and came in 1855 to the

United States, working in a brewery in Davenport, Iowa, until 1858, when the tide of German-Swiss immigration brought him in its wake to Perry County.

Here he found employment for a few years in the coal mines at Cannelton, but settled in 1862 at Tell City, with his wife, Dora Schubert, whom he had married in 1856. He lived until October 5, 1905, and of the three children born to him the only son, William Krogman, carries on the inherited business.

Frederick Voelke, Jr., who founded the Tell City Brewery in 1861, might have been termed a braumeister by inheritance, being the eldest son of a skilled brewer in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, where he was born August 30, 1832. His parents, Frederick and Christine (Gerhardt) Voelke, left Germany along with thousands of others in 1848, coming first to Pittsburgh, but in 1850 to Troy, where the father at once engaged in his regular trade, which he carried on for six years.

The son and namesake, who had received an exceptionally fine musical education in Prussia, spent several years travelling with and playing for theatrical companies in the Middle West and South, but on August 12, 1856, married Nancy, daughter of Green B. Taylor, one of Troy's pioneer merchants. Here he settled and conducted the Troy Brewery until removing, in 1861, to Tell City, where he lived until July 26, 1911.

Ten children were born to his marriage and the mansion which he built is still one of Tell City's handsomest residences, on a site of commanding elevation in Eighth (Main) street, and is one of the very few homesteads in the town still occupied by the third generation of the original family. The brewing business had been discontinued before his death and the buildings were demolished when the property passed into the hands of Mr. and Mrs. William Krogman (Claudine Voelke). An artistically terraced lawn now beautifies their former site, and from the City Park gives to the stately old home a picturesque approach,



as well as an appropriate setting for its Italian villa style of architecture.

The pioneer breweries early opened by Reis and Endebruck and by Peter Schreck were not long in existence, but the business established in 1858 by Charles Becker and Alois Beuter has gone on as the Tell City Brewery up to the present Beuter withdrawing after one year's partnership.

Common beer was brewed at first, but since the erection, in 1870, of a three-story brick building at a cost of \$3,000, the product has been lager beer of a quality not inferior to the Milwaukee or St. Louis article, whose widespread sale has done its part in adding to the fame of Tell City.

Within the decade of the 'sixties other men located in Tell City who left their mark upon the community's development and came to be looked upon by a later generation as 'early settlers,' although not original Swiss Colonists.

August Menninger, born November 21, 1826, at Frankfurt-am-Main, a son of Andreas and Barbara (Pauly) Menninger, engaged in 1860 in the sawmill industry at Tell City, building up an important business which he long managed with great success. He had been well educated in the Fatherland, and gave close attention to the public school system in his adopted home, that its every advantage might be gained by his children, of whom nine were born to him through his marriage in 1850 with Katharina Schmidberger, likewise a native of Germany.

August Schreiber, a son of Heinrich and Wilhelmine (Colshorn) Schreiber, born December 6, 1837, in Prussia, located at Tell City in the year 1866, twelve years after coming to America. His education in ancient and modern languages, as well as science, had fitted him thoroughly for the druggist's profession upon which he entered, making it a life work so that he attained the highest rank among pharmacists of

Perry County during his long years of uninterrupted residence.

Active in the fraternal orders, he held positions of responsibility in each to which he belonged, and was the choice of his fellow-citizens as one of Tell City's early mayors. By his marriage, August 25, 1861, to Eva Schloth, a daughter and a son were born, of whom the latter follows in his father's professional footsteps and resides in the old home.

In military circles Tell City's ranking officer stands as General Gustave Kemmerling, though his record of gallantry had been written on History's page, for his native land no less than for his adopted country, before he came into Perry County at the close of the War Between the States. The son of John and Katharina (Hueten) Kemmerling, born December 9, 1819, in Rhenish Prussia, he was a commandant of militia in his birthplace during the revolution of 1848, coming two years afterward to America.

In 1861, at Cincinnati, he was made Captain of Company F. Ninth Ohio Infantry, and his repeated promotions tell the story of his bravery,—major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel and brigadier-general, although on account of ill-health he declined this highest commission, tendered him after the battle of Chickamauga. Marrying in 1856, Gertrude, daughter of Benedict and Gertrude (Effinger) Steinauer, Tell City became his home in 1865. Of two children born to them only one survives, Captain Gustave Kemmerling, II, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, now government inspector of machinery and materials for the New York Ship-building Company, with headquarters at Camden, New Jersey.

While his settling in Tell City was early in the decade of the 'seventies, it was also as a wounded soldier that John T. Patrick became a citizen of the community where for two-score years his was a familiar figure. A slight irregularity of step served as a daily reminder of the battle of Stone River where he was

wounded and disabled for further service, with Company G, Eighty-first Indiana Infantry, in which he had enlisted when only twenty years of age.

Born, April 6, 1842, in Crawford County, his parents were John D. and Mary (Powers) Patrick, both natives of Maryland, who came about 1840 to Indiana. John T. Patrick was a successful teacher in his young manhood, then served as Clerk of the Perry Circuit Court from 1876 to 1884. During this time he studied law and in May, 1884, was admitted to the bar, where he continued as an active practitioner until his death, June 19, 1915. He was twice married; in 1879 to Margaret Menninger, and in 1883 to Anna Menninger, both daughters of August and Katharina (Schmidberger) Menninger, and a numerous family of children survive their father, treasuring his precepts and his example.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### ADYEVILLE, BRANCHVILLE, BRISTOW, SIBERIA

ST. AUGUSTINE'S parish at Leopold, with the Rev. Augustus Bessonies as its founder, was the mother church of the Roman Catholic faith in Perry County, and Troy may be considered one of its elder children in the work upon which Father Bessonies actively engaged. In 1849 sufficient ground was acquired there for building and cemetery purposes and a brick structure, 33 by 48 feet, was erected and dedicated to St. Pius, the patron saint of gentle 'Pio Nono' (Pius IX) who was then Pope.

The Rev. J—— Contin was the first resident pastor. In course of long years parsonage and school were added and in the early 'eighties a new brick church was built. Its interior finish and decoration is probably the handsomest of its kind in Perry County, attesting the generosity of its congregation whose devotional spirit has been further shown through the number of its members who have embraced the religious life in conventual or monastic orders, or in the priesthood.

While it is incontestable that spiritual needs received less consideration than material affairs in early Tell City, there were among the colonists some twenty-five Roman Catholic families, by whom St. Paul's parish was organized in 1859, the first offices being performed by the Rev. Michael Marendt, of Cannelton, who built the original church at a cost, with site, of \$900. During several years directly following, Father Marendt was absent in South America, so the work was intermittently supplied from Cannelton or from the Benedictine Abbey at St. Meinrad, until 1863, when the Rev.

Ferdinand Hundt took up his residence as the first settled pastor.

The present edifice was commenced in 1870 when its cornerstone was laid by the Rev. Bede O'Connor, but after the walls were roofed, in 1873, the work languished until 1877, when the Rev. Edward Faller, who then transferred from Cannelton to Tell City, pushed to completion the work toward which he gave largely from his individual means. The building is 48 by 114, with a nave 40 feet high in the clear and twin towers reaching a height of 134 feet. In architecture it departs strikingly from the familiar ecclesiastical Gothic type, belonging to the Byzantine order, the same style as more recently adopted for the immense Westminster pro-cathedral built in London since 1900, which is the most imposing Roman Catholic church ever erected in England. Parsonage and school house were also the fruit of Father Faller's labours, though a more extensive school building was put up in 1814, with modern equipment throughout, in which the Benedictine sisters conduct a large school along certified lines of training.

In 1866 the First German Evangelical Society was organized in Tell City, with Ernst Birnstengel, Henry Keller, Justus Rode, Jacob Kleiber and Ludwig Wade as trustees, who in the following year built a church costing \$3,500. The Rev. Jacob Knaus, of St. John's Church, Cannelton, was the first pastor, but a Sunday School of fifty scholars was conducted by B. Steerlin. This has grown into one of the largest and most vigorous in the county, being foremost in activity in the Perry County Sunday School Association, which is affiliated with the state organization. It is an index to the work of the entire local body, which was at first a free society, belonging to no synod prior to May, 1885. The costly modern brick church, built 1913, contains the finest pipe organ in Perry County, a memorial to the late Adolph Zuelly, and is the centre of devoted endeavour for a large and earnest congregation.

Between 1872 and 1874 services of the Episcopal

Church were held in Tell City by the Rev. Dr. A. Kinney Hall, rector of St. Luke's parish, Cannelton, and a small frame structure under the name of Grace Church was built at the corner of Ninth and Pestalozzi streets. The Right Reverend Joseph Cruikshank Talbott, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Indianapolis, officiated there at a confirmation service, September 28, 1873, but the time was not yet ripe for exclusively English missionary work and the effort was dropped a year later upon Dr. Hall's departure from Cannelton. The Brazee, Hubbs and Combs families had been the principal supporters during its brief existence, and all these resumed their membership in St. Luke's parish.

Rural parishes of the Roman Catholic Church in the county commenced with St. Croix (Holy Cross) Church, in Oil Township several miles north of Leopold, where the families of Jean Dupaquier and several others settled about 1849 and were soon visited by Father Bessonies. The Rev. J. P. Dion, from Cannelton, organized and named the mission in 1855, buying forty acres of ground on which the first log church and parsonage were built. The cornerstone of the present stone church was laid June 26, 1882, under the pastorate of the Rev. Charles F. Bilger. Father Marendt in 1860 purchased in Anderson Township for church and school purposes an acre of land on which stood a small frame building, saying the first mass in what became St. Mark's Mission. Father Dion added more land, and in 1867 work was begun upon a stone church, 36 by 65, finished after two years labour and still in use. It now has a resident pastor, the Rev. John B. Unversagt having been the first, and is completely equipped, offering privileges of Divine Worship to a large though scattered flock. Its annual midsummer picnics are a distinctive feature of county social life, bringing together a large crowd for jollification.

Four miles from Rome, in the German Ridge vicinity, Father Marendt built St. Peter's Church in 1868, but its attendance has been so diminished through deaths,

removals, etc., that regular services are no longer kept up.

In March, 1869, St. Martin's Mission was organized in the extreme north of Clark Township near the Dubois County line, where a number of Russo-Polish families (indicated by such names as Bombolaski, Skrynecke and others) had settled as the latest foreign colony coming into Perry County. A town site to which the name of Siberia was given was platted by the Rev. Isidore Hobi, O. S. B., and the ground practically surveyed February 18-19-20, 1869, by Jacob Marendt; with George Uebelher and Mathias Warken as his chain carriers, Nathan Hobbs and Michael Uebelher, flag bearers.

The village lies in the northeast quarter of southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 3, South, Range 3, West, and contains forty-nine lots each 100 feet square, with three fifty-foot streets—Perry, Dubois and Spencer—running from north to south, intersected from east to west by six others of the same width, beginning at the south, with Church street, then First, Second, Third, Fourth and Oakbush. Father Hobi's acknowledgment of the plat, dedicating these streets to public use, was acknowledged March 13, 1873, before Joseph George Stum, a notary public for Spencer County, and on August 12, 1874, was entered on Page 396 of Deed Book 6, by James Peter, Recorder Perry County.

Irregular services were held by the clergy from St. Meinrad's Abbey for several years after the church was built and blessed, the Rev. Charles F. Bilger becoming about 1880 the first regular pastor in conjunction with St. Croix. St. John's-on-the-Ridge, also in the northern part of the county, and Sacred Heart, near Galey's Landing in eastern Union Township, were the latest rural stations established.

In 1866 Jesse C. Esarey, a descendant of the pioneer family who were the earliest settlers of Oil Township in 1810, erected a saw and grist mill near one of the



branches of Oil Creek, where a settlement began to spring up, and in 1874 Daniel R. McKim laid out a regular town plat to which the name Branchville was given, Miss Mary C. Reily becoming the first postmaster. Its location is on the section line between the southeast quarter of Section 13 and the northwest quarter of Section 24.

John S. Frakes and John C. Newton, partners in general merchandise, were the first business men and Dr. John W. Lang the first physician. The Rev. William H. Sabine dedicated the Methodist Church built in 1867 near Branchville, although services had been held in school houses and other buildings ever since 1817. Branchville Lodge No. 496, F. and A. M., was chartered in 1873, with John S. Frakes, W. M.; Hiram Esarey, Jasper Deen, James S. Frakes, John H. Deen, John D. Carr and Absalom C. Miller as charter members. A two-story building, 20 by 40, costing \$1,000, was erected by the order and the lodge is still in existence.

Adyeville's first settler was John E. Newton, who opened a store there in a log cabin about 1848, and the point became locally known as Bridgeport, because of the old-fashioned covered bridge across Anderson River, on the highroad leading from Clark Township into Harrison Township, Spencer County. It thus appears on early state maps, but in 1861 when a post-office was established the name Adyeville was conferred, taken from a prominent resident, Andrew J. Adye, who became the first postmaster.

Twelve years later when the town-plat of Adyeville was surveyed by Daniel R. McKim, County Surveyor, June 18, 1873, he was the owner of all but four lots out of eighteen in the new village, the others being in possession of William T. Chewning, A. J. Mills and George Zeiler. Main street, thirty feet wide, followed the county road with Walnut and Willow respectively north and south of it. State, Cherry and Church were the three streets crossing these at right angles, with a

public square at the intersection of Main and State and a church lot, 418 by 104.5 feet, at the corner of Walnut and Church streets. James Peter was Recorder of Perry County when this survey was entered, December 2, 1873, in Miscellaneous Record Book B, Page 482.

Andrew J. Adye, who was born January 15, 1831, in Chautauqua County, New York, was the fifth son of Andrew and Laura (Whicher) Adye, who removed in 1837 from the Empire State to the Hoosier State, finding a location in Clark Township where the father died in 1845. Andrew, Jr., when a youth, made numerous flatboat voyages out of Anderson River—then considered a 'navigable' stream—down the Ohio and Mississippi. At the age of twenty-three, however, he settled down to mercantile pursuits near the home farm and December 13, 1857, was married to Barbara Ann, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Miles) Kesner, four children being offspring of the marriage.

He was practically the founder of Adyeville, entering its town plat in 1873 and serving nineteen years as postmaster. While almost self-educated, his own research made him a man of unusual attainments, especially in nature study and the allied sciences, and he discovered several medical remedies of vegetable compound, which earned prosperity for him in his later years. As township trustee and county commissioner he held elective offices, being an ardent exponent of the Jacksonian Democracy taught by "Old Hickory" whose name he bore.

The Adye family were vigorous Baptists, affiliating with the church of that belief organized in 1847, and were also connected with an early school of exceptional merit, conducted for several years at private expense in their neighbourhood.

Another name identified with the Baptist Church, besides prominent politically and otherwise in Clark Township during its early days is that of McKim, John McKim, who was one of the two magistrates chosen at the first township election in 1819, having reared a

family of ten children by his marriage with Permelia, daughter of the pioneer Ephraim Cummings. Thirty years later (1849) he was elected Representative of the Legislature by the Democratic party. A son, Daniel R. McKim, served sixteen years as County Surveyor, being elected to the office in the campaigns of 1856, 1870, 1876 and 1880. Another son, the youngest, William M. McKim, enlisted August 20, 1862, in Company K, Thirty-fourth Kentucky Infantry, for three years and was discharged June 24, 1865.

Active Methodists in the same locality were Thomas and Sarah (Stapleton) Wheeler, both natives of Kentucky, through whose seven children an extensive progeny is the result, the third generation having scattered into other localities, some of its members having attained special prominence in medical circles of Indianapolis.

Wheeler, as a Perry County name, is also particularly identified with Tobin Township, whither came at a very early day James and Sarah (Claycomb) Wheeler, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, whose family lines met in Breckinridge County, Kentucky. Six sons and five daughters were born to this marriage, most of whom in turn married in their own neighbourhood, so the connection is now a very wide one, represented far beyond the original county and state.

Van Winkle is the name of earliest conjunction with the settlement of Bristow, which has grown to be the principal town of Clark Township and northern Perry County. Alexander and Phoebe (Miller) Van Winkle, William T. and Emeline (——) Van Winkle, Elisha and Letitia (Jarboe) Weedman were owners of the site surveyed by Daniel R. McKim, Deputy County Surveyor, signed and acknowledged by them March 14, 1875, before Walter Hunter, County Surveyor.

Fifteen lots, besides a school lot, were embraced in the original plat, described on Page 68, of Miscellaneous Record Book C, by Israel L. Whitehead, County Recorder, March 16, 1875. The location was well

chosen, just north of the East fork of Anderson River, giving water power for a successful mill. Main street was the principal thoroughfare laid off, 66 feet wide, running due north and south. Oak street, 49 feet wide is parallel to it, one block east, with a 16½ foot alley bisecting the blocks, which were crossed at right angles by Water and First streets, each 23 feet in width.

Elisha S. Weedman opened the first store; the second being kept by T. J. Duncan in connection with the post-office, which he held until Smith McAllister was appointed his successor. Thomas K. Miles conducted a hotel for a number of years, besides dealing extensively in horses and stock on his large farm. The first resident physician, still one of Bristow's foremost citizens in every movement looking toward its growth, was Dr. William Lomax, who settled there permanently in the spring of 1881, following his graduation from Indiana Medical College. Two years later he married Hettie, daughter of Thomas J. and Sarah (Jeffers) Dugan, and Bristow has been their home continuously ever since, and the birthplace of their children.

The growth of the village in twenty-five years called for additional building lots, so Main street and Oak street were continued northward and Second street laid out to cross them, extending from the Baptist Church lot to the county road leading northeast from Bristow to Adyeville. This survey was made October 19, 1896, for William T. and Emeline Van Winkle, William and Hettie Lomax, Jacob H. and Nancy Aders, with Samuel Lasher and John Lanman, Trustees of the Baptist Church; although not placed on record until May 17, 1900. Four years later, July 22, 1904, William and Emeline Van Winkle entered for record a second addition lying west of the original town, containing nine lots, through which Van Winkle street leads, parallel with Main.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### ROME ACADEMY.

THE SAME act of Legislature, approved December 22, 1858, which accomplished the re-location of the county seat at Cannelton provided for transforming the old court-house into an academy, Elijah B. Huckleby, John C. Shoemaker and Job Hatfield being named as the first board of trustees. The citizens of Rome subscribed a fund of \$2,000, which was invested in first mortgage bonds, the interest to be used for keeping the building in order as a school-house.

Some necessary re-modeling, etc., was done during the summer following the actual removal of the county offices and records, and in October, 1860, the school was formally opened as Rome Academy, with N. V. Evans, A.M., principal, and C. W. De Bruler, assistant. The first session began with an enrollment of forty pupils, which soon increased to sixty. A course of study planned to continue forty weeks was outlined as follows: Primary Grade,—reading, writing, orthography, mental arithmetic and primary geography; tuition \$6 per term. Second Grade,—arithmetic, grammar, geography, ancient and modern history, analysis and elocution, tuition, \$8. Third Grade,—natural and mental philosophy, algebra, geology, hygiene and book-keeping; tuition, \$12. Fourth Grade,—higher mathematics, chemistry, rhetoric, composition and the languages; tuition, \$18. Music, \$20; use of piano, \$4; vocal music, \$2; drawing and painting, \$3. Intellectual ability marked both Evans and De Bruler so that their efforts brought the academy into speedy prominence in a day which saw small institutions flourish.

Lack of endowment forced the instructors to depend

upon tuition fees for their pay and such recompense was insufficient to prove satisfactory, even after augmented by interest from the mortgage fund. The Reverend William M. Daily, A.M., succeeded Evans as principal in 1861. A scholar of advanced culture, Dr. Daily was one of the foremost educators in the state, having occupied a few years earlier the president's chair of Indiana University at Bloomington. Rome Academy attained under him even higher eminence than when Evans was principal, the attendance increasing and about the same course of instruction being pursued.

One year alone, however, was the period of his service, also, and the Reverend William S. Hooper was placed at the head in 1862. Miss Susan Hooper, his sister, a woman of grace and accomplishment, was his co-worker and through their energetic efforts the institution apparently flourished, closing in June, 1863, with an attendance of ninety pupils.

Professor Joseph W. Snow, a graduate of Genesee College, took charge in the autumn of 1863, with Miss Flint as his assistant, but their year's work was less successful than their predecessors' had been, although an exceptional standard in French and music was maintained through the instruction given by Emile Longuemare. He belonged to an aristocratic old French family of St. Louis, Southern sympathizers, who had cast in their entire fortune with the Confederacy and were thus brought into reduced circumstances.

His uncle and aunt, Charles and Felicité (LeGuerrier) Longuemare, had come to Indiana after equipping at their private expense a full Missouri regiment of which their son, Charles Longuemare, Jr., was captain. A romantic incident of Winston Churchill's novel "The Crisis," where a young Southern officer breaks his sword rather than yield it to an enemy, was recognized in St. Louis as an actual occurrence in the career of Captain Charles Longuemare, Jr.

He took for his wife an Indiana girl, Anna, daugh-

ter of James and Ellen (Donnelly) Hardin, of "Hardin Grove" near Rome, where one of their daughters yet lives on her inherited portion of the old estate, the other marrying Major Harrison Jackson Price, of the Thirteenth Infantry, U. S. A. Emile Longuemare also married into a Perry County family, Josephine, daughter of Adam and Jane (Wheeler) Ackarman.

At this time the board of academy trustees was headed by William Valentine Reynolds, and through him the building was leased to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Cannelton, the parish taking over its control and changing the name to St. Albans' Academy. As such it was managed for one year by James R. Rafter, but proved unprofitable so the lease was not renewed.

The Baptists next took charge, installing the Reverend I. W. Bruner as principal, but the attendance and resources had steadily dwindled ever since the Hoopers left, so after two years of experiment the property was returned to the Board, who then arranged to have it used as a part of the public school system.

Since that time its teachers have been paid from the public fund, except for various spring and summer normal schools, sustained by personal subscription. Perhaps the most noteworthy among these—both for the quality of instruction given and the class of pupils in attendance—was that conducted in the 'eighties by Howard M. Royal and his wife, Mary H. (Batson) Royal, whose long career as successful educators has given them unique distinction upon the muster-roll of Perry County teachers during a half-century of continuous labour.

The Reynolds family represented old Yankee stock of New England though their coming into Perry County was through Hardin and Grayson Counties in Kentucky. William Rhodes Reynolds, a son of Richard and Esther Reynolds, of Providence, Rhode Island, had there married Sarah Jane Tower, daughter of Mathew Tower, lineally descended from that John Tower, of



Hingham, Massachusetts, whose descendants are so widespread that a copious volume of family history has been written in the present generation by a member bearing the ancestral name with distinction, Charlemagne Tower, sometime ambassador to Germany.

William R. and Sarah (Tower) Reynolds removed to Indiana in 1825 with the eldest two—William Valentine and Alonzo Davis—of eight children that were born to them, living for twenty-five years in Leavenworth, but in 1851 locating at Rome, where the remainder of their lives was spent. William V. was twice married, first to Mary, a daughter of Samuel Frisbie, and second to Elizabeth Gardner, by whom he was the father of three children. Alonzo D. married Caroline Woodford, daughter of Julius and Sarah (Phelps) Woodford, (her mother belonging to that New Jersey family which William Walter Phelps represented in the diplomatic service,) and their children were several in number. One of the daughters, Sarah Phelps Reynolds, married John William Minor, of Rome, himself of the third generation in Indiana of a family name long notable in the Old Dominion.

Nicholas Minor I was an extensive landholder in Loudoun County, Virginia, who gave to the town of Leesburg the ground composing the public square upon which the court-house and county buildings are situated. His wife was Mary Spence, and their son, Nicholas Minor II, married Mary Stark, coming with her in (or about) 1780 to Nelson County, Kentucky, where several children were born to them, so the name is found in adjacent counties of that state and came early into Breckinridge County, along with the allied families of Stephens and Holt from which Stephensport and Holt Station received their titles.

Nicholas III was the pioneer Minor crossing into Indiana for permanent residence, settling in Perry County not far from his Kentucky relatives, where he married Nancy Connor (or O'Connor) by whom he was the father of six sons—William Stark, Hadley

Jefferson, George S., Robert, Spence, and Richard Connor—and two daughters—Martha Belle and Catherine. Three of these children died unmarried, although living to mature age, but the others have widely perpetuated the family stock.

William Stark Minor, who for many years carried on a water-mill on Anderson Creek, took as his wife Almerine Lamar, a member of that pioneer family from which Lamar Township, Spencer County, received its name, and their children have shown traits of heredity in entering the professions of finance, education and the law. William Guthrie Minor, now cashier of the Cannelton National Bank, was elected Clerk of Perry County in 1890, holding the office four years, and was chosen Treasurer in 1902. His brother, Oscar Curtis Minor, represented Perry and Spencer Counties as joint-Senator from 1898 to 1902, and has served several terms as prosecuting attorney.

Hadley Jefferson Minor married Eleanor, daughter of John Shoemaker, a native of Pennsylvania, by his first wife, Rachel Tabor. Adam Shoemaker, his father, was of German extraction and came through Ohio into Kentucky bringing his wife, Catherine, and the several children born to them, including John, Adam, Jacob and Stephen.

All these became pioneer settlers of Perry County, entering lands while Indiana was yet a territory and serving their fellow-citizens in various public capacities. Adam Shoemaker II was one of the commissioners appointed by Governor Ray under an act of the Thirteenth General Assembly, approved January 21, 1830, to re-locate the seat of justice in Dubois County, which resulted in removing the county seat from Portersville to Jasper. He had taught school at Troy during the 'twenties for a time while Abraham Lincoln was a pupil, Lincoln himself relating this fact to a nephew, John C. Shoemaker, whom he met in Indianapolis when on the way from Springfield to Washington for his inauguration in 1861, Shoemaker being then

in the state Senate. Stephen Shoemaker was elected Justice of the Peace in 1820; John Shoemaker, in 1840, and Jacob Shoemaker in 1843, while John Shoemaker was Sheriff from 1826 to 1828.

John William Minor, son of Hadley J. and Eleanor (Shoemaker) Minor, was elected Auditor of Perry County in 1874, serving eight years, and removing later from Cannelton to Indianapolis where he became a prominent capitalist and a valuably influential member of the Democratic party, although never again consenting to run for office. His sister, Zerelda Minor, married Lawrence Brannon Huckleby, son of Elijah B. and Nancy (Groves) Huckleby, of Rome, afterward making their home in New Albany for many years.

From the second marriage of John Shoemaker, with Sarah Chapman, by birth a New Yorker of English lineage, was born April 8, 1826, John Chapman Shoemaker, the first of Perry County's native sons elected to a state office (Auditor of State, 1870) and than whom none attained greater success at the price of self-reliance, tenacious purpose and indefatigable effort through all the affairs of life.

Increasing knowledge of sociology and the scientific study of eugenics have completely verified what was formerly held as a mere theory—the potent influence of ancestry upon both physical and mental organisms; so that in seeking for the elements of success and tracing intellectual endowments to their ancestral sources, it must be admitted that no better mingling of national blood could be found than the Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic races which were blended in John Chapman Shoemaker.

As a mere child his quiet persistence was remarkable, and an interesting anecdote is told of his winning a Sunday School prize once offered in Rome to the pupil memorizing and reciting within a specified time the largest number of verses from the New Testament. This was a favourite spiritual exercise of an earlier generation, regarded as a stimulus to youthful piety,

and one devout lad, considered a village prodigy, outstripped all competitors at a bound by repeating four chapters. It was assumed that he had so completely distanced every rival that the contest was thought virtually over, but on the following Sunday young "John C." (as he was always called) quietly recited nine chapters in full. He had made up his mind to win, and the prize—a handsome Bible—was a lifelong cherished possession.

Reared on his father's farm, agriculture claimed his attention and he was the first to realize—far ahead of his time—the latent possibilities of Perry County hill-sides, with their southern exposure toward the Ohio River, for the growing of high-grade fruit. In 1859 he purchased from various owners tracts of land in Tobin Township, aggregating several hundred acres, seven miles east of Cannelton, fronting the Ohio River between Millstone and Deer Creeks, where he planted what was then the largest fruit farm in the state.

On the highest eminence, 275 feet above high water mark, commanding a glorious view of river and fertile valley for many miles, he built the substantial wooden dwelling planned with striking originality in cruciform shape, all its first floor rooms having large fireplaces into an immense central chimney. Until his election in 1870 as Auditor of State necessitated removal with his family to Indianapolis, he made this his home, and "Shoemaker Farm" became a Mecca for pilgrims seeking wisdom in practical horticulture.

The profound research which he had done for several years, on a smaller scale as an amateur, while holding office at Rome, here found material expression in the quality of fruit he was able to grow. His apples won many first prizes at the Indiana State Fairs, and his willingness to share with others the results of his experiments soon distinguished him as a leading pomologist of the Middle West. Agricultural journals sought his contributions as authoritative, and articles from his pen published in the Cannelton Reporter during the

'sixties are still quoted as standard on many points. A sight of rare beauty were the Shoemaker orchards when in full bloom or bearing, and old steamboatmen still relate how a glimpse of them was eagerly watched for by passengers when traveling past. On river charts the name "Shoemaker's Landing" is still used to designate the stopping place thus known during three-score years.

Through frequent changes in its subsequent ownership, and the negligence of non-residents, the estate had fallen into almost complete disintegration by 1912, but its wonderful latent possibilities caught the eye of an enthusiastic young Evansville man—Frank Iglehart Odell. His college-trained mind logically reasoned from cause to effect, and he at once set to work practically carrying out in Southern Indiana the horticultural theories he had mastered among apple-growers of the Pacific coast.

In conjunction with his father, Captain I. H. Odell, and his brothers—Harry Nicholas Odell and Robert Levi Odell—he once more brought together by purchase the original estate, with some important additions required to round out its acreage and immediately commenced a heroic rehabilitation of the entire five hundred acres. Vigorous treatment was applied the remaining trees, thousands of new trees were set out, modern scientific methods everywhere introduced, and while the work is yet too new to have attained extensive results, it is full of promise. The mansion has been restored as a centre of hospitality by Captain and Mrs. Odell (Anna Iglehart) and the name of "Sunnycrest" has already made for itself a place among Indiana orchards of note.

John C. Shoemaker, when only twenty-one, was elected county treasurer, serving six years in an office demanding not only strict business habits, but unquestionable integrity. He was married October 13, 1850, to Mahala, daughter of John Stephenson, one of Perry County's pioneer Virginian immigrants, an early

associate judge and justice of the peace. Several children were born to them, but only two daughters grew to maturity and married, so the present generation of Shoemakers carrying forward the name in Perry County are his collaterals, the direct descendants of John Shoemaker I, by his first wife, Rachel Tabor.

From the Treasurer's office John C. Shoemaker was chosen Auditor in 1853, as a Whig, but on the dismemberment of that party affiliated with the Democrats, who, in 1858, elected him senator for the district comprising Perry, Spencer and Warrick Counties. From that time up to his death, December, 1905, he was an active Democrat, high in the councils of his party.

While in the Senate he introduced the bill simplifying township management by placing the business in the hands of a single trustee instead of a board—three trustees, a secretary and a treasurer,—thus abolishing much cumbersome and complicated machinery, with its resultant friction and inefficiency. The work of county auditors, also, was materially condensed through measures of his suggestion, few legislators of Indiana having displayed greater resources of usefulness than John C. Shoemaker. In 1868 he was elected from Perry County as representative, and again brought forward in the lower house his eminently practical views of legislation.

During his years of service as Auditor of State—an office secondary only to the Governor's in actual importance—his administration elicited universal praise from the outside press, no less than from all Indiana, journals of such status as the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Cincinnati Enquirer terming him "a model officer for Auditor of State." After retiring, in 1873, he purchased a controlling interest in the Indianapolis Sentinel, becoming president of the company, and from the time he gave its affairs his personal attention, about 1876, its struggle against misfortune became a winning fight after years of continuous loss. Out of chaos he brought system, extravagance gave way to economy, and success took the place of disaster.



## CHAPTER XXXII

### FIRST TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

UNDER a law enacted by the Legislature of 1867 the county commissioners were required annually to appropriate the sum of \$50 (since increased to \$100) to defray the expense of a County Teachers' Institute, and the first assemblage of this character in Perry County convened on August 26 of that year, at Cannelton, for a session of five days.

No complete record of the proceedings remains, though outline accounts published indicate an enjoyable programme of recitations, drills, illustrations, discussions and lectures. The enrollment showed a total of forty-one, scarcely one-third the average number now attending the regular sessions, but it is a noteworthy circumstance that two of the teachers then present are still (1915) active educators of the county, and hold a record of unbroken attendance.

Many more have long since heard and answered the roll-call from the life beyond. Some who were then teachers remain as residents of Perry County, others are living elsewhere and the present generation knows them under names which matrimony has changed. The officers were J. T. Martin, president; Lizzie Whitehead (Mrs. James J. Wheeler), secretary; Sallie Patterson (Mrs. Irving Jones), clerk; Mollie (Drumb) Gregory (Mrs. Andrew J. McCutchan), Viona May (Mrs. Mathias M. Howard) and John W. Lang, programme committee. The others registering were: Adeline Knights (Mrs. James McGuiney), Emeline McCollum (Mrs. Alfred Vaughan), Nancy Vaughan (Mrs. Wright-Abbot), Mary H. Batson (Mrs. Howard M. Royal), Josephine Batson (Mrs. Leander Yarito),



Elizabeth Batson (Mrs. James Daniel), Sarah Osborn (Mrs. Griffin Buchanan), Ellen W. L'Argent (Mrs. Richard Hopkins), Maggie Gregory (Mrs. Joseph Wetherell), Mary Patterson (Mrs. William H. Hackett), Loutora Moeller, Letitia Jarboe (Mrs. Elisha S. Weedman), Sallie Wheatley, Sallie Whitmarsh, Maggie Gregg, Maggie Wilson, Alice Graham, Jennie Brown, Bessie Wales, Ruhamah Wales, Susanna Butler, Joshua H. Groves, Samuel T. Whitmarsh, Charles H. Deen, James J. Wheeler, John Stephens, Daniel Stanley, Smith McAllister, John Lasenby, Israel L. Whitehead, Isaac W. Lyons, Heber J. May, Hiram Sanders, James S. Frakes and John S. Frakes. The sessions were esteemed of such value that the teachers expressed their interest and gratification by resolving to hold another institute the next year.

Just a fortnight after the original institute met, the cornerstone was laid for a new public school building in Cannelton, the formal exercises taking place September 10, 1867. All the fraternal orders and local benevolent societies turned out in procession to the block lying between Taylor, Congress, Sixth and Bry streets, which the town corporation had purchased for school purposes, and the Masonic ceremonial was conducted in the presence of many spectators, who listened also to addresses from Hamilton Smith, Sr., and Charles H. Mason.

The edifice, a substantial and commodious two-story brick, still in use, with some interior remodelling, was an excellent structure for its day, reflecting much credit upon the board of trustees who erected it, Alfred Vaughan, Roan Clark and Joseph F. Sulzer. In the face of much opposition these virtually assumed payment of the bond issue, which amounted to only \$9,800 bearing six per cent. interest, and in a little over five years (April, 1873) the last was paid off, when the three trustees resigned from office, giving place to others.

The Rev. Warren N. Dunham (deacon in charge of

St. Luke's Church at the time) was the first superintendent in the new building for the school year of 1868-69, and the teachers employed under him were Christian H. Dick, Misses Ruhamah Wales, Augusta Kolb (Mrs. Maurice J. McGrath), Nancy Vaughan (Mrs. Abbot) and Maggie Hollerbach (Mrs. Wetherell).

The teachers' institute of 1868, from September 7 to 11, inclusive, was the first held in the new school-house, and its officers were Heber J. May, president; Mary H. Batson (Mrs. Royal), secretary; John T. Patrick, assistant secretary. Professor D. Eckley Hunter gave instruction in normal methods, in which he was one of Indiana's foremost pioneers. Exercises in the major branches of common school were conducted with much profit. Observant critics who had been appointed, indicated such omissions or commissions as were thought noteworthy and a question-box supplied its amusement together with a degree of benefit.

Up to this time each county still had its school examiner, and the last but one in Perry County holding such a position, between 1868 and 1871, was Heber J. May, who had been a successful teacher and later won distinction for himself in the profession of the law.

Heber J. May was the son of David May, and was born November 28, 1846, in Pike County, whence his parents moved about 1852 to Perry County, making it a home thereafter. His education was in the common schools, supplemented by some years of advanced training in a select private school conducted in Cannelton by the Rev. William Louis Githens, rector of St. Luke's Church, a man of strong and admirable character, whose personal influence upon the young people showed itself in many marked instances.

While still teaching school himself, Heber J. May next studied law, reading in the office of Judge Charles H. Mason, and soon after attaining his majority passed with high credit the required examination admitting him as a qualified practitioner before the bar. For

two years he practiced law in Evansville, but in 1873 he returned to Perry County where he purchased the first English newspaper in Tell City, the Commercial, an eight-column weekly journal.

It had been founded May 3, 1873, as an independent sheet, but was changed to Democratic on passing into May's hands six months later. He continued to own and edit it until January 1, 1876, when he sold the outfit to W. P. Knight, who shortly removed the plant to Union City, Indiana, Mr. May resuming his law practice in Cannelton. The death of his first wife (Margaret Mayhall, of Hancock County, Kentucky) left him a widower for several years, with one daughter, and in 1880 he was again married to Gertrude (Huntington) Bunce, daughter of the late Judge Huntington, of "Mistletoe Lodge."

In 1882 he was elected Joint Senator from Perry and Spencer Counties and in 1885 his services as an active Democrat were given due recognition by President Cleveland, who appointed him Assistant Attorney-General to Augustus H. Garland, of Arkansas, then in the cabinet. From the time of his removal to Washington he made the District of Columbia his home for the remainder of his life. When the Republicans came back into power in 1889, he formed a law partnership with Judge Garland, lasting until the latter's death, and was a trusted counsellor for several of the foreign legations.

Death came to him January 22, 1915, with distressing suddenness, and he passed away in the arms of his devoted wife, who still resides at the capital with their only surviving son, who is a journalist there.

Theodore Courcier, of Leopold, a son of John Courcier, who had fought in the War of 1812, became the last school examiner, in June 1871, serving under that title until June, 1873, when, by a new law, the office was changed to County Superintendent of Schools. He assumed the added responsibilities and carried on its duties until 1879, when he was followed by Israel

L. Whitehead, whose successors have been Francis J. George, Logan Esarey, Harmon S. Moseby and Lee B. Mullen, the present incumbent.

In earlier years the teachers' institutes were held at various points in the county, following the same plan as was then customary with the monthly examinations for teachers' license. Superintendent George, however, inaugurated a system of alternation between Cannelton in the "odd" and Tell City in the "even" years, which has not been departed from, although the law now permits no examinations to be held elsewhere than at the county-seat, where the superintendent has his office in the court house, along with the auditor, treasurer, clerk, recorder and sheriff.

The press of Perry County, whose beginning dates from April 28, 1849, when Charles H. Mason founded the Cannelton Economist, was for twenty years limited to two papers, one in each of the principal towns, and the Tell City Anzeiger being printed in German, there was practically but one county journal.

The Economist may be characterized as a periodical of superior literary tone, its editorials from the pen of Judge Mason being widely copied, while its zeal for home institutions was its strongest local feature. Little news that would pass as such today appeared in its columns, though its files afford illuminating glimpses of contemporaneous thought. Plate matter was then unknown. Each country editor had to compile his own selections, and by such should the merit of the Economist be estimated.

William H. Mason became an associate proprietor and editor in August, 1850, and the brothers continued to issue the paper until November 15, 1851. Louis Lunsford Burke and J. M. Beatty began issuing the Express from the same office December 6, 1851, but it ran through only four issues. After two months, or March 27, 1852, it reappeared as the Indiana Weekly Express, published by J. M. Beatty and J. B. Archer. November 20, 1852, Beatty sold out to Archer, who

continued alone until April 19, 1853, retiring then with a loss of several hundred dollars.

January 28, 1854, J. M. Beatty re-entered journalism, using the original outfit of the Economist but printing Number 1, Volume 1, of the Cannelton Reporter, which he published until January 13, 1855, when he sold out to J. B. Archer. All these papers in turn had been politically independent, but Archer changed both name and politics, printing as the Cannelton Mercury a Democratic sheet whose life lasted through seven short weeks. Beatty then came back for the last time, issuing, April 21, 1855, Number 1, Volume 2, of the Reporter, resuming independent politics with the old name.

Joseph M. Prior purchased the paper February 23, 1856, changing its name with the issue of May 24 to Independent Republican and again, on August 16, to Republican Banner, which lasted until its suspension, September 13.

George G. Leming and Henry Koetter soon purchased the outfit, and November 8, 1856, saw the name Reporter restored to the head where it remained for the next twenty years, politics becoming Democratic under the new proprietors. Jacob B. Maynard bought out Koetter March 14, 1857, and January 30, 1858, took over Leming's interest also. From this time the paper regained among Indiana periodicals the status which it had never held since Charles H. Mason presided over its columns. Colonel Maynard was a writer of striking force and brilliancy, belonging to what is now termed the "Old School" of journalism whereof Henry Watterson—the beloved "Marse Henry," last and most distinguished of his type—is now (1915) the only living representative.

December 25, 1858, the paper went back into the hands of George G. Leming and James M. Moffett, who sold out very soon to the Wade brothers, John C. Wade acting as editor. Colonel Maynard took the paper once more, January 7, 1860, and his editorials during the

breathless Lincoln campaign, the period of secession, and the first months of the War between the States, were copied throughout the Union, giving the Cannelton Reporter a prominence such as few country newspapers attain.

Ability so pronounced wins in every case personal recognition for itself, so that Maynard was offered a position on Indiana's leading Democratic newspaper, the Indianapolis Sentinel. He had sold a half-interest in the Reporter to W. L. Moffett, December 6, 1881, and December 5, 1863, sold his remaining share to Henry Northup Wales, who became editor.

Wales bought out Moffett April 2, 1864, but October 1 sold out to Joseph W. Snow, who had been for some years a teacher in Cannelton and Rome. He was a man of classic scholarship, as the columns of his paper plainly attest, nor was there any falling off in taste or ability when he sold out, April 12, 1866, to Thomas James de la Hunt, a fellow-graduate from the same college, Genesee (now Syracuse University). Ownership of the Reporter was continued by Mrs. de la Hunt for a time following her husband's death, with Charles H. Mason in the editorial chair as a Republican, but in the summer of 1876 the establishment was sold to Henderson Marcus Huff and Hiram Osborne Brazee.

June 1, 1870, the Cannelton Enquirer had been established by a stock company whose control soon passed to Edwin R. Hatfield, Sydney B. Hatfield and Elisha English Drumb, the last two being joint editors of the paper, which was a Democratic sheet and founded for purposes of county politics, wherewith all its owners were actively connected.

William N. Underwood, a native of Delaware County, New York, came in September, 1873, from Topeka, Kansas, to Cannelton, purchasing a one-third interest in the Enquirer and becoming its publisher. He was a graduate of New Berlin (New York) Academy, and had learned the printer's trade in the state of his birth, working three years in the Chenango Union



office. For a year he lived in Wisconsin, as pressman for the Janesville Democrat, but at the age of twenty enlisted in October, 1861, in the Sixteenth New York Heavy Artillery, serving until mustered out, August, 1865. After the war, he located in Carlinville, Illinois, marrying Etta Wargensted there, but went to Topeka, where he was foreman of the State Record until coming to Cannelton.

Drumb and Edwin R. Hatfield retired from the paper in June, 1874, and just two years later Underwood purchased the share of Sydney B. Hatfield. William E. Knights, a Canneltonian, who had been publishing the Grandview Monitor, became associated with Underwood in 1877, the two buying the Reporter from Huff and Brazee and consolidating both papers June 21, 1877, under the title Cannelton Enquirer and Reporter.

Knights remained as editor only until January 31, 1878, resuming then his work in Grandview, while the Cannelton office passed into the control of Underwood. On October 15, 1887, the name Reporter was dropped from the headline, but the sheet remained Democratic until purchased, October 12, 1892, by Thomas E. Huston and Charles T. Miller, who changed its politics back to the Republican faith, Huston selling out his interest December, 1899, to Miller.

For several months in 1878 a Republican weekly, the Cannelton Advance, was published by John F. Waldo, a young journalist from Vevay, but proved an untimely venture. The presidential campaign of 1880 saw two other Republican papers established in Cannelton, the Journal, of which John E. Daum was proprietor, with William Clark as associate editor, and the News, published by Frederick V. Rounds and William A. Silverthorn. Although both were good country sheets, full of local items, their career was not much more than two years in duration. Expenses were heavy, and notwithstanding both state and national victories for the Republicans, the party had but a small share



of patronage in Perry County printing which could be disbursed toward their own press.

Similar conditions six years later determined the fate of the Cannelton Gazette, a weekly founded during the summer of 1886, as a feature of the campaign looking toward the election of Benjamin Harrison to the United States Senate. Louis L. Burke, for twenty years resident in the District of Columbia, returned to Perry County, and established the paper which lasted less than a year, as the Republican gains were not sufficient to overcome Democratic control of local politics. Burke removed his plant to Brookville, where for several years he published the American with fair success.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### FIRST COUNTY FAIRS.

THE EARLIEST successful effort toward holding a county fair in Perry County was a three days' exhibit October 13, 14 and 15, 1867, in Tell City, when a creditable display of farm produce, grain, vegetables, fruit, flowers, jellies, preserves, needlework, manufactured and mechanical products, and other miscellaneous articles was assembled. The attempt was not repeated the following year, however, and it was not until 1875 that another organization was effected under the style of "Perry County Exposition." Zalmon Tousey, president; George F. Bott, secretary; August Menninger, treasurer; and James M. Combs, superintendent; were the officers.

A tract of land was secured about midway between Cannelton and Tell City, on the old "high water" hill road leading from Seventh Street in the former town into Tell Street in the latter. Here a half-mile track was laid out, and the usual grand-stand, band pavilion, floral hall, stalls, sheds, rest and refreshment houses necessary for well-equipped fair grounds were built. A liberal premium list was issued, with prizes, sweepstakes, etc., in all departments and for some few years annual fairs were held, drawing large crowds from both Southern Indiana and neighbouring Kentucky.

At Rome, February 12, 1870, the Perry County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was organized, adopting constitution and by-laws, and electing as permanent officers, James Hardin, president; Hiram Carr and James T. Bean, vice-presidents; Emile Longuemare, secretary; Adam Ackarman, treasurer. Fortnightly meetings were held, at which were discussed

such topics as "Oat Culture," "The Crop," "Use of Manures," "Preservation of Meat from Vermin," "Onion Growing," and "Does the Moon Affect the Potato Crop?" Seeds and literature from the Department of Agriculture were received and distributed among the members, and the society was in its way a forerunner of the Farmers' Institutes which came into existence about twenty years later, and among whose earliest active workers was James J. Wheeler, now a resident of Chicago but long identified with Perry County.

At a very early meeting of the A. and M. Society it was suggested that a fair be held at Rome during the fall of 1870, but the plan failed to materialize, as did also an attempt to reorganize the society upon the basis of a stock company. Regular meetings were continued, nevertheless, until the autumn of 1871, the membership then numbering about thirty residents of Tobin Township in the vicinity of Rome, and after prolonged deliberation it was determined to hold a fair in the fall of 1872, utilizing for the purpose the Academy grounds and buildings.

In exhibits, attendance and interest the first fair was so successful that it was repeated in 1873, again using the Academy. Such was the increase along all lines that early in 1874 it was decided by the association to secure permanent quarters. Three acres of level land, lying one mile west of the village, were purchased of Andrew Ackarman, for \$300 and during the summer were fenced in, a show ring laid off, a well dug seventy-five feet deep, and suitable buildings constructed, at a total outlay of \$1,500.

James Hardin continued as president until 1876, and was then succeeded by John Tipton Connor, but again took the office in 1880. Hiram Carr Ackarman, in 1882; James Carey, in 1883; and A. T. Wheeler, in 1884; were the next officials in succession, by which time the interest of the county at large had seriously languished, and the association had begun to decline.

High praise, however, is due the town and neighbourhood of Rome for their efforts in founding and maintaining so long as they did an organization which many Indiana counties of greater wealth and superior agricultural conditions had failed to establish successfully.

The fruit displayed was of notable excellence in the earlier years, John C. Shoemaker, the authority on pomology, making several annual trips from Indianapolis back to his old home to serve as one of the judges, and pronouncing Perry County apples unsurpassed by any exhibited at the State fairs. His own orchards (now "Sunnycrest") were then deteriorating, but from the Polk and Winchel nurseries near Tobinsport came specimen fruit which would have won prizes in any competition.

Nor was the fresh fruit alone of remarkable perfection. The notable housewives of Rome brought

"—— candied apple, quince, and plums, and gourd,

With jellies soother than the creamy curd.

And lucent syrops, tinct with cinnamon,"

whose delicacy could not be excelled, while needlework was shown of a fineness which only the patient stitchery of Belgian convents might equal. With the flagging of enthusiasm, however, it came to be a good-humoured local jest that some of the displays were kept in pantry, cellar or linen-press from year to year, and annually brought forth like rare works of art, to win new ribbons and further cash prizes.

About 1888 strenuous exertions were made to revive the old-time attractiveness of the fair, and fifteen additional acres were leased, so that a half-mile race track could be laid out. Some handsome purses were offered in the hope of inducing horsemen to bring their trotting strings, but Rome was of such inconvenient access that men of the turf passed it by for points having railway connection, and only two more fairs were held.

In 1894 the property was sold for \$350 to Nicholas N. Pontrich. A comfortable residence replaced the

stalls, floral hall was changed into a barn, corn-furrows were traced across the race-track, and only the deep well remains as a relic of "the grandeur that was Rome."

For a number of years after the discontinuance of the short-lived Orleans Bank of Cannelton, Perry County was without any regular banking facilities, but in 1872 John S. Whitten came from Leavenworth to Tell City and, in co-operation with Frederick Steiner, founded the Tell City Bank as a private institution, with a capital of \$30,000. Whitten was cashier and manager, Steiner being wharfmaster and otherwise occupied at the time.

After one year the concern was turned over to a partnership of twelve stockholders with a capital of \$12,000, all of which could then be profitably handled. Charles Steinauer, of Tell City, was president, and Gabriel Schmuck, of Cannelton, cashier; the other shares being held by Peter Meier and Christian Rauscher, of Cannelton; Louis Martin, of Fulda; Amand Eble, J. Wielman and John Richardt, of Troy; Gustave Huthsteiner, Ferdinand Becker, August Menninger and Michael Bettinger, of Tell City.

In November, 1874, it was changed to the Tell City National Bank, with Charles Steinauer, president; Gustave Huthsteiner, cashier, and a capital of \$50,000, but in February, 1878, became a private institution again. Later reorganized as a state bank, it finally became a national bank once more, which it still remains, having for its cashier (1915) Walter F. Huthsteiner, a son of Gustave Huthsteiner.

While Gabriel Schmuck was not for long connected with the Tell City Bank, the services which he rendered the infant concern were of incalculable value, as he brought it safely through the financial panic of 1873, when it shared the fatal danger threatening other organizations of its kind all over the Union, and his sound judgment steered the craft wisely in its period of critical storm.

Gabriel Schmuck was born June 13, 1833, in Sobernheim, Rhenish, Prussia, and was brought to America by his parents, Adam and Elisabetha (Klein) Schmuck, in the wave of emigration which left the Fatherland during 1848. Their first stop of two years, was in Pittsburg, but in June, 1850, they settled for permanent residence in Cannelton, where the fourth generation of the name in Indiana is now represented. The family was large and—like most of the immigrants—without fortune, so the discipline of early life served to fix habits of industry and usefulness upon the six sons, Adam, Jr., Gabriel, Peter, Anton, Charles and Frederick, all of whom grew to maturity as men of strong characteristics.

Gabriel Schmuck's education was begun in the schools of his native town and his actual time in the school-room was not long, though he devoted many hours in his youth to outside study and by personal application attained versatile culture. When still in his 'teens he yielded to that wanderlust which possesses many vigorous temperaments, and left Cannelton to seek new fields in the South and West. Having to earn his own money as he went, he worked temporarily in many states, thus adding to his experience and increasing the resources upon which the requirements of public station would later draw. No false pride prevented him from engaging in any legitimate kind of honest labour, and his active mentality soon lifted him into positions of responsibility.

Satisfied with a few years of this roving career, he returned home, finding Cannelton increased in population and Tell City installed as a new factor in Perry County's development. His accurate knowledge of the German language caused him to be much in demand as an interpreter for legal transactions of many kinds, and a step into politics was an easy transition.

In 1859 he was elected Recorder and near the close of his four years' term was chosen Clerk of the Circuit Court, holding this office for six years, or until

March 10, 1872. Six months later he was elected Representative for the Legislature in 1873, an important session wherein he was connected with measures of state-wide bearing and brought himself into notice all over Indiana. As a direct result he was nominated by the Democrats in 1876 for Clerk of the Supreme Court of Indiana, and was elected with the rest of a ticket which his name and popularity materially strengthened.

Following this election he removed to Indianapolis with his wife, Mary F. Sanders-Talbot (an adopted daughter of Dow Talbot, of Cannelton), whom he had married December 24, 1861. With their children, they made the capital city their home thereafter, until they left Indiana for Kansas in the 'nineties, settling in Galena, where extensive mining properties demanded supervision.

The Centennial anniversary of American Independence, July 4, 1876, was universally commemorated all over Perry County with the same spontaneous enthusiasm which marked its observance throughout the Union.

Cannelton's demonstration was in the highest degree creditable to the intelligent patriotism and public spirit of her citizens, being ushered in at earliest day-break by the roar of artillery and the ringing of every bell in town. At eight o'clock a parade was formed at the corner of Washington and Fourth Street, and headed by the Cannelton Cornet Band, marched through the principal streets, among buildings everywhere profusely decorated with the national colours and a variety of emblematic devices. Besides all the different fraternal orders and societies in line, an amateur military company, organized and drilled for the occasion by Will N. Underwood, impersonated

“—— the old-time Continentals  
In their ragged regimentals.”

And on a canopied float sat the Goddess of Liberty,



appropriately garbed and gracefully represented by Miss Kate May, with thirteen other young ladies dressed in white, impersonating the Original Colonies.

These young women sang national airs as they drove along, and after reaching the beech grove on the hill west of Cliff Cemetery, where the formal exercises took place, were joined by additional singers, both male and female, who again rendered "The Star-Spangled Banner," and other patriotic melodies.

The Declaration of Independence was read aloud, and John B. Handy, of Boonville, delivered the principal oration. The Rev. Christian Kirschman, pastor of St. John's Evangelical Church, gave an address in German, and the remainder of the day was spent in dancing, games, music and refreshments. A display of fireworks closed the celebration, with another public dance on a platform built for the occasion in "Hutchings Square," between Washington, Adams, Sixth and Hutchings Streets.

The boom of cannon also woke the echoes at dawn in Tell City, where the Stars and Stripes were everywhere unfurled, and a procession said to be the finest in Perry County, marched through Eighth (Main) and other streets, proceeding lastly to Camp Sherman where a programme of regulation character was carried out. Christian Uebelmesser read the Declaration, and Albert Bettinger, of Cincinnati, spoke eloquently in German, followed by a brief talk from Judge Handy. Dancing was continued all day, and at night both Turner and Union halls were thrown open for large balls.

Troy also sustained her olden spirit of patriotism, and public demonstrations drew crowds to Rome, Derby (famed for balls sometimes lasting for two days or more in O'Neill's Hall), and Leopold. In Anderson Valley six Sunday Schools united in a joint celebration, serving a basket dinner to over seven hundred persons besides singing patriotic songs and listening to a Centennial address delivered by Roan Clark, of Cannelton.

An ancestral relic dating back to

“——good old Colony days  
When we lived under the King,”

exhibited with pride in Cannelton during this Centennial period, was a veritable powder-horn, owned by Mrs. Peter M. Hackett (Roselle Thompson), granddaughter of its original possessor.

It was twenty inches long, by three-and-a-half at the base, bearing the hand-cut inscription:

“June 4, 1768. EBENEZER THOMPSON, his Horn.” The ox which bore the horn had been raised by Ebenezer Thompson, one of the earliest settlers of Maine, where he had large possessions and where he died at the advanced age of over one hundred years. His wife's name was Somerset, belonging to the family for whom Somerset County, Maine, was named, and as she was the first white female child born within its limits an entire township of land was bestowed upon her by the authorities.

After its first military use in the American Revolution, the powder-horn saw service in the Second War with England, and again in the Mexican War. No doubt it would have served once more, during the War Between the States, save for the changes and improvements in soldierly accoutrements made by 1861 since its first owner slung it across his shoulder and sallied forth to meet the British regulars.

Nor was the Centennial sentiment of pageantry and symbolism wholly expended on the national anniversary. The intensely exciting Hayes-Tilden presidential campaign was marked by frequent demonstrations in behalf of both political parties. Glee-clubs flourished, torch-light processions helped to kindle enthusiasm, spell-binding eloquence was poured out lavishly all over Indiana—then an “October state”—as the crucial battle-ground.

One parade held in Cannelton, Saturday, September 16, 1876, is vividly described by one of those who fig-

ured in it, and the circumstance that it preceded a Hayes and Wheeler pole-raising and a speech by Curran A. De Bruler, Republican candidate for Congress, is purely a subordinate detail after the lapse of two-score years.

Thirty-eight little girls garbed in white were bedecked with sashes of red and blue, bearing the names of the States then in the Union. In a low and roomy basket-phaeton rode the Goddess of Liberty, Miss Margaret Gray (Mrs. Charles Oswald), dressed in white, with supporters, respectively gowned in red and blue, representing Justice—Miss Emma Moore (Mrs. Charles W. Proctor)—and Truth—Miss Lizzie May (Mrs. John Gordon, later Mrs. Henry Dickman, Sr.).

Most striking of all was the float whereon sat the "Thirteen Original Colonies" impersonated by young women in elaborately correct costumes of the Colonial period. Some of the gowns worn were genuine family heirlooms, and while the personality of all the participants could not be recalled in 1915 by the narrator—herself by far the youngest and smallest of the group, hence appropriately representing Rhode Island—among them were the names of Emma Burke (Mrs. A. Kinney Hall), Sallie Lees (Mrs. Clinton C. Worrall), Jessie Lees (Mrs. William Cleaves Conway), Annie Huckleby (Mrs. John Allen Smart), Ida Moeller (Mrs. George W. Hufnagel), Rose Moore (Mrs. Charles H. Rose), Bessie Payne (Mrs. Samuel Brazee), and Lillie Richards (Mrs. George Minto).

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### FROM PLANK ROAD TO RAILWAY.

A FACTOR of verily inestimable value was the Ohio River in Perry County's development for more than half a century, as no definite system of improved highways within the borders of the commonwealth was even planned until four years after Indiana's admission to statehood.

The "National Road," first projected in 1802 from Washington to Wheeling, was designed to stretch clear across Ohio, when admitted as a state, in order that emigrants might readily reach the government lands farther west, and from the proceeds of all public lands sold in Ohio, five per cent. was set aside as a building fund for this great thoroughfare. As a piece of early American engineering its magnitude is scarcely realized in this Twentieth Century, but it compares not unfavourably with the famous Roman roads of antiquity, and in the center of its eighty-foot "right of way" ten inches of crushed stone macadamized a forty-foot track on which two six-horse coaches could safely pass, or race abreast, as frequently occurred. Congress, however, was dilatory in completing the road beyond Ohio and in 1839, only a few years after it was built to Indianapolis, abandoned it to the state of Indiana.

By an act of Legislature in 1820 no less than twenty-six "State roads" were planned; and the importance of making connection with the river was plainly felt, as many of these routes lay in Southern Indiana, though Perry County's recognition did not come until 1829, when an act was passed to locate a state road from Troy to Washington.

James Carnahan, of Daviess County, Thomas Pride, of Pike County, and Jared Bowling, of Dubois County, were named commissioners to view, locate and mark the route chosen, being instructed to meet the first Monday in May (3d), 1830, at Troy, to be sworn in and begin their labours. Thirty feet was fixed as the width for the road, ordered to cross White River at Casee's Ferry, and the new highway was considered no less important to the pioneers than a railroad at the present time. Even yet a certain Daviess County thoroughfare leading southeastward from the city of Washington is sometimes designated as "the old Troy road."

Besides the three per cent. fund, which was a donation from the general government out of the sale of public lands, and amounted in some years (1821) to an appropriation of \$100,000, there was a road tax on real estate in general, amounting to one-half the amount of state tax. Town lots were assessed an amount equal to one-half the county tax, while non-resident owners were charged with an amount equalling one-half the state tax plus one-half the county tax. This was to offset their escape from having to work the roads in person, as all other able-bodied male inhabitants between the ages of twenty-one and fifty with the exception of clergymen and some few others, were formally warned out for manual labour on the public roads two days in each year.

Under this state law the first roads were cut through the forests of Perry County, and with the normal human tendency toward progression along the line of least resistance, the public highways ambled hither and yon wherever some previous beginning had been made by a pioneer anxious to reach a spring, a mill, a store, a smithy, a school, a church or a burying ground. It was a physical impossibility among the hills and valleys of rock-ribbed Perry to follow the rectangular section lines, as was done in more level counties such as Spencer, and in many instances mere

by-ways and local footpaths formed the groundwork and location for permanent county roads yet in use.

Streams had to be forded or crossed by crude ferries such as that over Anderson River, where Lincoln worked as a hired hand. Travel was infrequent, and as days sometimes went by without a passenger to cross, the ferryman's duties were neither arduous nor confining and he could work at his other tasks until summoned by the solitary horseman or weary pedestrian. In some instances a bell, as now, gave the signal, but oftener it was the old primitive call as kept up in England:

"Ohoi, and oho, ye! It's I'm for the ferry!"

Bridge building was long retarded by the ludicrous action of the Fourth General Assembly at Corydon, January 17, 1820, which passed a combination bill under which almost every creek large enough to float a shallow pirogue or canoe was gravely declared "a navigable waterway," and its obstruction by mill-dams or bridges specifically prohibited.

Absurdly though it now reads, on page 59 of the Laws of Indiana for 1820, to find Anderson River from its mouth (at Troy), to the Hurricane fork (near St. Meinrad); Poison Creek, to Cummings' mill; and Oil Creek, to Aaron Cunningham's mill; lawfully declared "Navigable streams," along with waterways both greater and less, it must be remembered, out of respect for the practical common sense of our early law-makers, that such legislation was based upon the Ordinance of 1787. This declared the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence and the carrying places between the same to be "common highways, and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of said (Northwest) territory as to the citizens of the United States and those of any other State that may be admitted into the Confederacy, without any tax, impost or duty therefor." In such case "navigable" can only be interpreted as referring to the bateaux then alone used for navigation, so the legislators of

four-year old Indiana had some official precedent for an action that would today be regarded as a freak of questionable sanity.

The first movement toward improved roads in Perry County was in 1850, when the Cannelton, Troy and Jasper Plank Road Company was incorporated, the three towns subscribing respectively \$8,000, \$6,000 and \$14,000 in stock. Alexander McGregor, a civil engineer, who had come from Newport, Rhode Island, to superintendent the erection of the Indiana Cotton Mills, was the first president; Charles H. Mason, secretary; and Frederick Boyd, treasurer. The shares were to be paid in periodical installments of \$4, whenever called for by the progress of building, and several assessments appear to have been made. Timber of the finest character then sold at a figure almost nominal, when bought at all, as the wasteful extravagance in forest destruction recklessly cut down trees that would now be reckoned of priceless value. It was, therefore both cheap and easy to cover the road with heavy narrow oak planks which for several years afforded excellent driving surface.

The route from Cannelton was a northwesterly continuation of Front Street, passing the John Mason homestead, one of the first brick dwellings in the town and then still occupied by its owner and builder, although he had just sold forty-five acres of land adjoining to a German nobleman, Baron Bernard Herzelee, what was considered a high price, \$400 an acre. Herzelee Street, in the addition surveyed, is the only memorial which the titled foreigner left behind him in Cannelton, and Mason Street, running parallel one block south, was a courtesy shown the original landholder.

The Mason residence was totally destroyed June 22, 1864, by a fire discovered while the funeral services of Mrs. Mason (Sarah Elkins Webb) were taking place, the remains having to be hastily removed from the blazing edifice. Owing to a dry season the flames



spread so rapidly that little could be saved from the home in spite of the large crowd present.

Leading on past "Elm Park," the Francis Y. Car-lile home, the road crossed Dozier Creek, then closely skirted Brier Hill through the mining hamlet known under the name of Fulton, and an addition once platted as Lower Cannelton, but left toward the river "Mul-berry Park," the residence of Henry P. Brazee, Sr., familiarly known as "Squire" Brazee.

In connection with this handful of miners' cabins by the roadside it is well to explain definitely how the name of so distinguished an individual as Robert Ful-ton became associated with so humble a settlement. It adds no little interest to the history of Perry County that such a man as he, whose sagacity in matters of national concern was equalled only by his mechanical skill, should have directed his attention to this point.

Under date of Saturday, May 26, 1849, the fifth issue of the Cannelton Economist contains editorial matter worthy of copious quotation, because it may be taken as reliable authority on the question whether Robert Fulton himself was ever actually in Perry County. The article reads:

"For the facts which we lay before our readers we are chiefly indebted to the Case of Fulton's Heirs *vs.* Roosevelt, reported in 5 Johnson's Chancery Reports, 174.

"It seems that Robert Fulton on the 15th day of September, 1813, entered into an agreement with Nicholas J. Roosevelt to purchase a certain tract of land lying upon the Ohio. The agreement recited that the latter had discovered a coal mine on the bank of the Ohio, in the Indian Territory, some distance above Anderson's creek, at which mine the steamboat, on her first descent, took in coal for her fuel; that the coal mine was embraced by certain land particularly de-scribed &c., and for which Fulton covenanted to pay the sum of \$4,400, and also the sum of \$1,000, yearly in quarterly payments, for the term of twenty years.

The payment of this annuity, however, was conditional; for in case Fulton, after faithfully and scientifically working the mine, should find the same incapable of producing twelve thousand chaldrons of coal, equal to 432,000 bushels, then the annuity was to cease.

"February 24, 1815, Fulton died, and soon after, his representatives were sued at law by Roosevelt, upon the covenant for the payment of the annuity. It was alleged, on the part of Fulton's heirs, that the agreement was entered into by Fulton 'solely from the representations of Roosevelt, which were false and deceptive.' The weight of testimony adduced at trial supported this allegation, and Roosevelt was perpetually enjoined from suing or prosecuting any suit pending at law, for the recovery of the annuity, or any part thereof."

From this report it is a clearly natural inference that Robert Fulton had never seen the 1,040 acres which he purchased from Roosevelt, or he would have known for himself what his heirs established in the trial, that the mine had been opened "on or near the line of the river; or rather, in the bed of the river, and consequently subject to frequent inundation."

In the Louisville Journal of March 13, 1850, an article appeared suggesting that a monument should be erected to Fulton's memory, somewhere upon the tract of land which he had owned. Its tone indicated that some preliminary steps were already under way, and on March 14, in Troy, a meeting was held, with Major Taylor Basye in the chair and John P. Dunn, secretary, which resulted in organizing "The Fulton Monumental Association of Troy, Indiana," with constitution and by-laws.

A called meeting of Indiana and Kentucky citizens was held May 18th in Louisville, and the "Fulton Monument Association" was formed, with a truly impressive board of officers and directors: President, Elisha M. Huntington, of Cannelton; vice-presidents, the Gov-

ernors of Indiana and Kentucky *ex officio*; the presidents of the Mechanics' Association, Boston, and the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, *ex officio*; and Jacob Burnet, of Cincinnati; secretary, Dr. T. S. Bell, of Louisville; directors, Robert Dale Owen, John Law, James Boyd, Henry L. Ellsworth, of Indiana; James C. Hall, Paul Anderson, Jacob Strader, Joseph Pierce, of Ohio; George D. Prentice, Henry A. Griswold, Stephen H. Long, John B. Semple, Jacob Beckwith, of Kentucky.

With the publication of some circulars soliciting subscriptions to a monument fund, the activity of both associations apparently spent itself, without permanent or material results, and the matter was forgotten except for intermittent references long afterward. At no time then, however, was any claim put forth that Robert Fulton had been more than merely a non-resident owner of the land termed the "Fulton Tract," and the stories of his personal presence at Troy had their birth in subsequent years.

That portion of Fulton's lands which became "Mistletoe Lodge," the estate of Judge Huntington, lay between the river and the Cannelton and Jasper plank road, whose general direction through what is now Tell City followed the north and south alley between Eighth (Main) and Ninth Streets. Such location is still indicated by the quaint old stone residence of Miss Katherine Holschuh, and the home occupied until recently by Miss Katherine Eith, both of which have their front toward what was once the leading thoroughfare of Troy Township. The plank road led due north into the frame market house which formerly stood in the center of Tell City's present beautifully shaded City Park, on the spot where the City Hall was built about 1896.

From there, or a little farther north, it appears to have turned toward the west, probably near what is now Tell Street, as it passed between the river and the home residence of Amaziah P. Hubbs, Sr., and his wife,

Jane (Gibson) Hubbs, whose farm was the last one of importance before reaching Troy.

Great results were anticipated when some sections of this road were opened with a smooth surface of firm planking, but the grade established seriously miscalculated the high water mark of the Ohio, and a series of freshets wrought such havoc with the incomplete portions laid down that the subscribers refused to advance further capital and such property as the company owned passed into the hands of Henry P. Brazee, Sr., and William P. Beacon at a forced sale.

Railroad building was agitated in the early 'fifties through the Economist, but the geographical situation of Perry County was unfortunately such as to leave it outside the range of any of the important trunk lines planned to cross Indiana in either direction, a condition similarly and equally affecting the opposite tier of Kentucky counties between Louisville and Henderson. Prior to the construction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad about 1851, meetings were held in Hawesville, in which Perry County citizens actively participated, seeking to induce a location of its route by way of Hancock County, touching the river, but not all the eloquence of Indiana and Kentucky combined could persuade surveyors that the shortest line between the Falls of the Ohio and the capital of Tennessee lay through Hawesville. Nothing substantial, therefore, came of the effort and Hancock County was just one year behind Perry in finally procuring a railway outlet four decades later.

In the flush years following the war between the States several new routes were projected in the general vicinity of Perry County, none, however, actually penetrating the county itself. The nearest was the Rockport and Northern Central Railroad, planned to run from Rockport to Loogootee, on the Ohio and Mississippi (Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern). This line approximately followed a route proposed as early as 1849 under the title of Rockport and Washington

Railway. It is said (Goodspeed's "Spencer County," page 297) that \$50,000 was voted in August, 1849, in Spencer County toward building this pioneer railroad, but the scheme never materialized.

In the autumn of 1869 Spencer County voted \$97,874.24, for the R. and N. C. R. R., two levies being made, in June of 1870 and 1871, and in 1872 its construction began, under the name of Cincinnati, Rockport and Southwestern Railway, as it was designed eventually to touch Owensboro and Kentucky territory. The financial panic of 1873 came near giving the company a death-blow in its infancy, but the track was laid across Spencer County, as far as Ferdinand Station (Johnsburg) in Dubois County, where it languished for a few years.

February 14, 1879, however, saw the first train run through Huntingburg into Jasper, beyond which point the road was never built along the original survey. Through successive changes of ownership and name this line became in turn part of the Louisville, New Albany and St. Louis Air Line; the Louisville, Evansville and St. Louis; and finally the Southern Railway, under whose last management the French Lick Springs extension was opened December 1, 1907, giving the first through northern connection to the river counties lying between Floyd and Vanderburg.

The earliest definite project for a railroad leading directly into Perry County came in 1871 from a company organized as the Indiana Mineral Railroad, magnificently planned to run from Lake Michigan (at or near Chicago), through the block and cannel coal fields of Clay and Daviess Counties clear to the Ohio River, where a new manufacturing community was to be created under the name of Iron City.

No exact spot for this terminal was ever definitely fixed, as the preliminary survey led through Anderson Valley as far as Troy and whether the road should thence lead east or west appeared an open question, to be settled by the amount which Perry or Spencer

County should contribute to aid in building the road. Spencer County was already engaged on another line practically parallel, so viewed the new scheme with an equanimity bordering upon indifference, and the most strenuous efforts of the promoters were put forth to obtain a donation of \$100,000 from Perry County.

A two per cent. tax was asked from Troy Township, but as the company only offered to build their road to Gutenberg Street at the southern extremity of Tell City, the proposition was not considered favourably by either Cannelton or Troy, each town wishing to become the terminus. At an election held Monday, October 9, 1871, the tax was voted down by a vote of 593 to 551, 472 of the ballots for the road being cast in Tell City, so the question was permanently settled and no portion of the road was ever built.

Immediately following this defeat a new project was launched from Evansville, the Ohio River Railroad. It was proposed to run through Newburg in Warrick County, Rockport and Grandview in Spencer County, Troy, Tell City, Cannelton and Leopold in Perry County, following the valley of Deer Creek between these last named points and ultimately reaching the St. Louis Air Line at some point near Hartford (English), Crawford County, or an independent line into New Albany. Forty miles of roadbed would thus have crossed Perry County, and \$60,000 stock was voted toward its and January 13, 1872, by a vote of 1,311 to 826, but the tax was never levied.

Other elections were held later with results showing county sentiment as favourable to a railroad, but the plans invariably failed of fulfilment, so the tax levies voted were rendered void in each case and were never collected. In April, 1878, Troy Township voted \$30,000 for the Southern Indiana Railway, and in July, 1879, \$29,500 to the Evansville Local Trade Railway, a narrow-gauge project whose outcome was the Newburg dummy line, later transformed into an electric



suburban line and extended to Rockport and Grandview in the present century.

Clark Township in April, 1881, voted against a tax to aid the Evansville, Dayton and Eastern, an extension of the road built from Evansville to Boonville in 1876, and connecting in 1880 with the Rockport line at Lincoln City. This road, if built, would have barely crossed the northwest corner of Perry County, and its benefit to the citizens was felt to be negligible. Troy, Anderson, Clark and Oil Townships in April, 1884, by a vote of 1,312 to 529, voted \$35,178 toward the New Albany, Leavenworth and Cannelton Railway, designed to run over the same general route as the former Ohio River line, but work never progressed further than a preliminary survey.

It was reserved for the shortest and most practical route ever suggested to be the first (and, up to 1915, the only one) built into the county, twenty-three miles filling up the gap between Cannelton and Lincoln City. The company was organized in 1886 as the Huntingburg, Tell City and Cannelton Railway, but was from its inception practically a part of the Air Line system.

As a means toward an end so long desired, and that financial aid might be officially given, the municipal organizations of both Cannelton and Tell City were changed in the spring of 1886 from town to city corporations, the first city election in each place being held on the same day, the first Tuesday in May (4th), 1886. As mayor of Cannelton was chosen Samuel T. Platt, the councilmen being: first ward, Roan Clark, Alexander Quick; second ward, Jacob Heck, John J. McCarty; third ward, Joseph Whittaker, John Cumiskey. Tell City's full corps of officials was made up of: August Schreiber, mayor; Albert P. Fenn, clerk; John Wichser, treasurer; Charles Grammberg, assessor; William P. Kremer, marshal; John C. Harrer, Anton Moraweck, John Hess, Valentine Ress, Henry Bader and Joseph Adam, councilmen.

Work was begun on the roadbed from Lincoln City



in the summer of 1887, and an unusually dry season permitting it to be carried on with few interruptions, the first passenger train into Perry County came on January 1, 1888, bringing a special party of Louisville business men and railway officials over the Cannelton Branch to the county seat.

Cannelton's first mayor, Samuel T. Platt, Sr., was a native of England, born about 1822 near the city of Liverpool, and before coming to America was married to Hannah Britton, by whom he was the father of two sons and two daughters. They located in Cannelton about 1851, and his earliest business venture was in association with James Lees and several others in a foundry and machine shop. Later, he became connected with the Indiana Cotton Mills and afterward postmaster for some time. For many years, however, he was mail agent on the old Louisville and Evansville packets, at a period when the trade was at its height, only losing this position in 1885 when the Democracy came back into power, as he had always been a prominent Republican.

His election as mayor was a personal recognition of his efficient citizenship and not a partisan issue, and he gave eminent satisfaction during his brief administration, brought to a premature end by his death, September 24, 1886, when Peter Clemens was selected to fill out the unexpired term.

Peter Clemens was of Prussian birth and parentage, born May 8, 1829, in Recklinghausen, Westphalia, near the River Lippe, a son of Henry and Anna Maria (Ochel) Clemens. The region was rich in iron ore, and his father was engaged in the smelting business until seventy-five years old, living to the advanced age of eighty-seven.

The son, who had learned the same business in his father's factory, came to America when twenty-three years old, landing June 21, 1852, at New York, but went on to Pittsburg as a center of the iron industry, where he worked for six months. As the extreme

strain of labour began to tell on his health, he made a change in 1853, to the shoe and leather business. Mastering it by a two years' apprenticeship, he then located in Cannelton, where on May 19, 1856, he married Anna Maria Schneider, a native of Perry County. He died May 17, 1899, and by a singular coincidence his requiem mass was sung in St. Michael's Church on the forty-third anniversary of his marriage. Another coincidence, one without parallel in the county, was the circumstance that out of the nine children born to the marriage, two of the sons—Henry M. and Anthony P.—also held the same office of mayor of the city of Cannelton.

While always a stanch Democrat, Peter Clemens was never a machine politician or office-seeker. Though several times elected a trustee under the old town corporation, he served as such from a sense of actual duty toward his fellow citizens and from a public spirit which the rising generation might profitably emulate.

Besides the fact that his term as mayor saw the first railroad built into Perry County (an enterprise toward which he had given much valuable assistance), a purely local Cannelton improvement also completed while he held the office was the stone culvert over Casselberry Creek, which replaced the dangerous and unsightly covered wooden bridge at the foot of Congress Street and endured until washed out by the cloud-burst of July 27, 1910.

In the county seat strife of 1891, Peter Clemens took an active part toward building the new sheriff's residence and jail at Cannelton, and was equally concerned in the erection of the present beautiful Court House in 1896, which was the city's free gift to the county. One of his latest public projects, about 1896-97, was the extension of Seventh Street into a road above high-water mark (now a turnpike) leading over Brier Hill into Tell City at Fourteenth and Washington Streets. He had personally staked out a route, months

before the county authorized the survey which, when made, followed very closely the line he had suggested.

In religious circles he was among the foremost members in organizing St. Michael's Roman Catholic parish, and one of its original trustees. He loved the church "from turret to foundation-stone," and its ornate high altar is a fitting memorial of his uniform liberality, although his singular modesty forbade any inscription being placed thereon in his name. A musician of cultivated taste, possessing a bass voice of unusual volume, it was as a choral director that he peculiarly excelled, and with Peter Clemens as *kapellmeister* the compositions of Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Lambillotte and other great masters were rendered on festal days by the choir of St. Michael's in a style rarely heard outside the larger cities.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### NEWSPAPERS AND FRATERNAL ORDERS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the extremely creditable military record made by Perry County soldiery in the field or in defense of home during the war between the states, and the numerous resident veterans who "beat their swords into plough-shares and their spears into pruning-hooks" when peace was restored, it was not until sixteen years after the first National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic had been held at Indianapolis, November 20, 1866, that any steps were taken toward its organization in the county.

As the first full company of men enlisting had gone out from Cannelton, it seemed altogether appropriate that the association designed to bind together the surviving boys in blue during the remainder of their lives should also be first formed at the county seat.

Hence, in the spring of 1883, the nucleus of a local post was assembled in Cannelton, for which was chosen, by a graceful vote of all the eligible members, the name of a deceased soldier, a lieutenant in the original company leaving the county, whose distinguished personal gallantry under fire had won for him a series of promotions to the final rank of major—Thomas James de la Hunt.

On March 18, therefore, Captain Keller, of Evansville, formally instituted de la Hunt Post, No. 152, Department of Indiana, with the following roster of charter officers and men: James A. Burkett, commandant; Titus Cummings, senior vice; Joseph C. Richey, junior vice; John T. Patrick, quarter-master; John Zimmerman, sergeant-major; Rev. D. T. Davis, chaplain; Jacob B. Snyder, adjutant; John R. Weathers, officer of day; Will N. Underwood, William J.

Quick, Alexander Quick, William H. Harding, Leonard May, Eugene Devillez, Isaac Reed, J. W. Hill, W. H. Cummings, Anton Schmuck, Charles Kahler, John J. Bristow, William S. Lamb, Anderson Bolin, Robert Devers and Thomas Kiefer.

As this membership represented Tell City, Rome, Leopold, Derby and other localities as well as Cannelton, an awakening of patriotic interest all over the county was a logical consequence. Memorial Day, May 30, was for the first time formally celebrated in a fitting way, and its observance has never been discontinued, although somewhat of its original significance has perhaps been lost sight of by the rising generation, through the pathetically diminishing number of comrades who muster in for the annual march.

On July 4, 1883, Independence Day was celebrated once more in a manner recalling similar demonstrations of the "sixties" in Cannelton, the exercises taking place at "Lion Park," a riverside pleasure resort kept by Anton Schmuck in the former grounds of "Elm Park," the old Francis Y. Carlile homestead.

Under the skilful direction of Mrs. Charles H. Rose (Rose Moore) a chorus of voices rendered "The Star Spangled Banner" and other national songs. Further evidence of feminine talent was the expressive reading of the Declaration of Independence by an accomplished young elocutionist, Miss Blanche Combs (Mrs. Charles B. Tichenor). The Hon. Heber J. May, joint-Senator from Perry and Spencer Counties, was orator of the day, and an original poem was read by Comrade John R. Weathers. A brief address was also delivered by a former Confederate, Dr. John S. Bemiss, who had been a surgeon with Morgan's command. Doctor Bemiss had been one of the mounted marshals in the parade preceding the exercises at Lion Park, and showed his loyalty to a reunited country by the graceful tribute of wearing intertwined his own old Southern sash with that of a Northern officer, his devoted personal friend, the late Major de la Hunt.

From that time to the present, many encampments and reunions have been held by de la Hunt Post, and of these the most notable—on account of the famous veterans present—was that of September 4, 5 and 6, 1886, also at Lion Park, which became for the time a tented city. General James C. Veatch, of Rockport; Colonel David Rodman Murray, Jr., of Cloverport; Colonel Charles Denby, of Evansville, afterward Ambassador to China for twelve years, each lent individual distinction to the occasion, but it was absolutely unique among all demonstrations ever witnessed in Perry County through the presence of two Indianians who later attained the supreme honours possible for state or nation to bestow, Alvin P. Hovey and Benjamin Harrison.

As a delicate courtesy to the widow of their namesake, the only woman whom they ever elected to honorary membership, Mrs. de la Hunt (Isabelle Huckleby) was invited by the Post to drive in an open barouche, seated between these two brigadier-generals, and on arrival at the camp they were received with full military honours.

Just a year later than the Cannelton post was organized, a charter was issued for Tell City, and the same memorial was there paid one of the town's earliest heroes in selecting his name for the post, and on March 12, 1884, Captain Louis Frey Post, No. 287, was instituted, with George F. Bott, P. C. Rothley, Joseph Molinari, H. A. Grabhorn, Jacob Boyer, G. Zscherpe, Joseph Hauser, John Haerle, Peter Rossman, Edward Schultz, Alexander Gasser and Albert Jehle as its charter members.

With the number of volunteers who had early enlisted from the eastern portion of the county, an organization of survivors in Tobin Township might naturally be expected, and in November, 1884, at Rome, Commandant James A. Burkett, of de la Hunt Post, instituted Charles B. Wheeler Post, No. 392, under charter date of November 22, with the following offi-

cers and members: John Arnold Hargis, commandant; Robert Thompson Huckeby, quarter-master; Elias J. Kaid, quarter-master sergeant; Edmund Connor, sergeant-major; J. F. Connor, chaplain; Jacob Paulman, surgeon; William H. Kyler, officer of day; John D. Kroush, officer of guard; Andrew J. Earles, A. P. Wheeler, J. W. Wheeler, L. P. Rollins, D. A. Wheeler, Elijah Strods, A. J. Bryant, John L. Baker, H. B. McCoy, Abraham Crist, R. W. Robinson, H. P. Robinson, William R. Polk, W. R. Gardner, Calvin Sampley.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen had entered the county a few years earlier, Cannelton Lodge No. — being organized in October, 1879, with Will N. Underwood, P. M. W.; Robert Payne, M. W.; Thomas Hollerbach, G. F.; Alexander Quick, O.; Dr. Charles Heady Beard, R.; Christian Kielhorn, F.; Daniel Mueller, R.; William W. Scott, G. W.; August Hoch, I. W.; Peter Bauer, O. W.

Franklin Lodge, No. 94, was instituted December 9, 1882, at Tell City, and its original officers were August Schreiber, P. M. W.; Henry Nimsgern, M. W.; L. Greiner, G. F.; John Herrmann, O.; Leander Yarito, recorder; D. Charles M. Brucker, F.; Richard Windpfenning, R.; J. Gimbel, G.; A. Gasser, I. W.

These lodges have had the usual career of the smaller fraternal and benevolent societies and their earliest years were their best, but William Tell Grove, No. 7, Druids, which was chartered July 7, 1864, to Christian Uebelmesser, Frederick Rass, John Hoby, John Ehret and J. J. Walters, of Tell City, is still in existence, as is also a thrifty Swiss Benevolent Society (Gruetli Unterstuetzungsverein), founded by the earliest colonists and whose membership is limited to Switzer descendants.

Tell City Lodge, No. 206, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered May 17, 1859, to A. Pfaefflin, E. T. Reis, Philip Meyer, Gottlieb Mann, John H. Noel, John C. Schuing, Michael Hafing and Daniel Mueller. Odd Fellowship has always been strong in Tell City



and, May 22, 1873, a charter was issued to Perry Lodge, No. 418, with John S. Whitten, August Menninger, Andrew J. Smith, Sylvester Rainey, John Buehler, G. W. Lyon, John and Peter Herrmann, C. R. and A. P. Mastin as its first members.

Allemania Encampment, No. 156, was chartered May 18, 1881, to August Schreiber, Anton Moraweck, Louis Koch, Henry Fruehwald, Jacob Epple and Henry Grabhorn.

The sister order of the Rebekah degree was instituted some years later, its installation as Columbia Lodge, No. 314, taking place October 8, 1889, with the following as its first officers: John M. Kreisle, noble grand; Rose Althof, vice-grand; Katherine Hugger, secretary; Frederica Bader, treasurer.

Early in the following summer (June, 1890) a sister lodge, Ohio No. 329, was instituted at Cannelton, members from Columbia participating in the installation of its first officers: William A. Wilson, noble grand; Mrs. Sarah (Cleveland) Henning, vice-grand; Mrs. Clara (L'Argent) Huston, permanent secretary; Ella May Henning (Mrs. William Ellsworth Richey), recording secretary; Ella Wheeler (Mrs. Oscar Myers), treasurer; Mrs. Eliza (Fairhurst) Chilton, warden; Mrs. Amelia (Johann) Plock, conductress; Mrs. Katherine (Klein) Loesch, inner guard; Philip Fuchs, outer guard; Mrs. Ella (Reed) Truempy and Margaret Chilton (Mrs. Charles A. Loesch), supporters noble grand; Mrs. Dinah (Platt) May, supporter vice-grand.

The Knights of Pythias were introduced to the county by the institution of Tell City Lodge, No. 203, Knights of Pythias, on December 17, 1888, with twenty-two members and officers. Harry Delany, of Huntingburg, acting as special deputy, conducted the ceremonies, assisted by brother knights from Huntingburg Lodge, No. 161, Lodge No. 64 and Uniform Rank Division No. 46, from Boonville. The original officers installed were: Charles M. Brucker, past chancellor; Gabriel Schmuck Dusch, chancellor commander; Henry

D. Stuehrk, vice-chancellor; Albert P. Fenn, prelate; Robert Huelsman, master of exchequer; John Begert, Jr., master of arms; Henry J. Stuehrk, keeper of record and seal; Philip Zoercher, master at arms; Charles Ebersold, inside guardian; Charles Meckert, outside guardian; William J. Becker, Gustave Walter, John Hartman, trustees.

"Founded on naught but the purest and sincerest motives," as reads the opening sentence of their by-laws, Pythianism in Tell City has maintained a steady career, and despite the lapse of years several of the foregoing names remain on the roll of active Knights.

George R. May, Henry H. Wilber, Jacob B. Snyder, George W. Pohl and Francis W. Feagans, of Cannelton, were among the charter members of this lodge, and with the increase of interest which their own town came to feel, an organization was effected there some fifteen months later. Ambrosia Lodge, No. 250, was instituted March 25, 1890, at Cannelton, with the following officers: William F. Lees, past chancellor; Frank G. Whitacre, chancellor commander; James R. Lees, vice-chancellor; Benjamin F. Hemphill, prelate; Julius Peters, keeper of record and seal; John D. Mitchell, master at arms; W. B. Spurlock, inside guardian; John Heubi, outside guard; John T. Hay, Charles F. Breidenbach, Shubal C. Little, trustees. Some few years later, a Uniform Rank Division was instituted, but removals and deaths so far reduced the resident membership in course of time that it was decided to surrender both charters and disband as an organized body.

Freemasonry in Tell City had its beginning in the middle seventies, when Tell City Lodge, No. 507, was instituted, with Simon Jaseph, Jr., worshipful master; James Clark, senior warden; August Schreiber, junior warden; Frederick Voelke, treasurer, and August Menninger, secretary, but the membership was never large and its existence was not of long duration.

Under the old name, but with a new number, work

was carried on for a time by dispensation, some years afterward, and May 23, 1899, a charter was granted to Tell City Lodge, No. 623. Its officers then were Frederick G. Heinzle, worshipful master; Philip Zoercher, senior warden; William H. Schaeffer, junior warden; Albert P. Fenn, secretary; Joseph N. Dodson, treasurer; Henry J. Stuehrk, senior deacon; William S. Webb, junior deacon; August Schreiber, senior sentinel; John T. Patrick, junior sentinel; Casper Gloor, tyler. The present society now embraces many of the community's most valuable and representative citizens, both young and old.

Derby Lodge, No. 1631, was the first Knights of Honour organization in Perry County, instituted in May, 1879, by Dr. Emanuel R. Hawn, of Leavenworth. Its charter members were Marion Fite, Dr. James B. Bennett, S. N. Badger, Scott Cunningham, Joseph Yates, Robert Brodie, John W. Davis, John S. Williams, Matthew Cunningham, W. H. Richardson, W. H. Jones, J. T. Gilliland and Solomon Snyder.

During the next year, or September 16, 1880, James W. Jacobs, grand protector of Indiana, organized a lodge at Cannelton for which a charter was issued June 8, 1881, as Excelsior Lodge, No. 2293, with John Zimmerman, dictator; Caleb W. Knights, reporter; Leonard May, treasurer, and twenty-five additional names upon its charter roll.

Practically contemporary, and marking a period of growth among societies for fraternal insurance on the mutual plan, was the organization, January 18, 1888, in Cannelton, of Father Book Branch, No. 519, Catholic Knights of America, whose first officers were: Timothy T. Whelan, president; John J. McCarty, vice-president; Joseph P. Clemens, recording secretary; Isaac C. Dunn, financial secretary; Lawrence Keenan, treasurer; John Hayes, sergeant-at-arms; Edwin B. Latimer, sentinel; Dr. Charles W. Ladd, examiner; Frank Gerber, Sr., Timothy E. Sweeney and Emil E. Haering, trustees.

As spiritual director was chosen the Rev. John W. Book, then the joint pastor of St. Patrick's and St. Michael's congregations, the bestowal of whose name upon the society was but one mark of the affection in which he was held by his own people—an esteem shared by many outside his flock. Of German descent, though a native of Clark County, Indiana, October 21, 1850, he was the son of William and Mary (Engel) Book. Entering St. Meinrad's Abbey at the age of fifteen, his religious education was completed there, with the exception of two years' study at old St. Joseph's College, Bardstown, Kentucky.

Elevated to holy orders on All Souls' Day (November 2), 1873, by the Right Reverend Maurice de St. Palais, Bishop of Vincennes, he was given his first charge in the following January, St. Bernard's parish at Rockport, also serving St. Martin's, Centerville, and St. Rupert's, Yankeetown, as rural missions. In the summer of 1885 he was transferred to Cannelton, where he remained until the close of his earthly labours, October 1, 1898.

He was a contributor to various magazines and periodicals, besides the author of several books gaining wide circulation, making for him a reputation which his personal diffidence never allowed him to claim. During his lingering illness he was constantly visited by warm friends of every creed, whose welcome at his bedside met no shade of difference, each caller leaving with a sense of benediction, whether spoken or unuttered. The imposing obsequies in which twenty-five priests participated, October 4, in St. Michael's Church, marked a day of respectful veneration to his memory among all who had known him as a fellow-citizen of southern Indiana.

St. Paul's Branch, No. 557, at Tell City, was instituted a year later than that founded at Cannelton, forty-two names comprising its charter membership, which has increased (1915) to one hundred and eighty. Anton Paalz, president; Michael J. Dosch, vice-presi-

dent; George Reimann, secretary; John Birchler, treasurer, and the Reverend William Kemper, spiritual director, were the original officers.

The centenary of Washington's first inauguration, which had a nation-wide observance on April 30, 1889, was not ignored in Perry County. Red-white-and-blue decorated homes, business houses and public buildings, appropriate exercises were held in the principal towns, perhaps the most distinctly commemorative being the brief religious service in St. Luke's Church, Cannelton.

It is a matter of national history that Washington, who was a communicant of the Church of England, when Virginia was a royal province, and a vestryman of Christ Church, Alexandria, devoutly attended worship in St. Paul's Chapel (Trinity Parish), New York, just after the inaugural ceremonies. He was accompanied thither on foot from Federal Hall by the Vice-President, the Speaker, the two houses of Congress, and all who had taken part in the inauguration. They passed through a military guard into the church, where services were conducted by the Right Reverend Samuel Provoost, Bishop of New York, who was also Chaplain of the Senate. After prayers for the day were read and a "Te Deum" of thanksgiving had been sung, the President entered his state coach and was escorted to his lodgings.

The pew in which he sat is marked by a suitable inscription today, and on April 30, 1889, was occupied by another President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana, who took part in the same words of prayer and praise, read from the original Colonial prayer-book by another Bishop of New York, the Right Reverend Henry Codman Potter.

In grateful recognition of Divine benevolence, the Bishops of the American Church ordered the same exact ritual to be used in all the Episcopal churches on the anniversary day, so the identical offices in which the Father of his country had participated were reverently conducted a hundred years later in St. Luke's

Church, Cannelton, by the rector, the Rev. Dr. R. Noyes Avery.

Eighteen and eighty-nine was a year of patriotism everywhere, and saw the first military organization (except during war time) in Perry County since the days of old militia musterings. This was a troop of Cannelton's young men, induced to enlist in the state guard through the persuasiveness of William Cleveland Henning, who had just returned from DePauw University where he had belonged to the cadet corps while pursuing his law studies.

He was elected captain of the Cannelton Light Infantry, Company D, First Regiment Indiana Militia, with George Palmer first lieutenant, and Edward Everett Cummings second lieutenant. Mozart Hall was obtained for drill purposes, its name becoming "The Armoury," and the company made a creditable showing during the period for which its men enlisted, attending state encampments, giving exhibition drills, dress parades, etc., and holding enjoyable military balls in the hall. The company's name was changed to the Ewing Guards in compliment to one of the state officers, but it was not reorganized after expiration of its term of service.

Captain Henning was his father's namesake and the eldest son born to the third marriage of William Henning, Sr., a native of Pennsylvania, December 17, 1829, but who was taken when six months' old to Germany by his parents, John and Dorothea (Hildebrand) Henning. At the age of twenty he came back to America, living for a time near his birthplace but later in the "panhandle" of (West) Virginia, and in Ohio. Here he studied law, and in December, 1858, at Columbus, was admitted by the Supreme Court of Ohio to the practice of his chosen profession.

His first marriage took place June 2, 1850, at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth Helfenbein, who bore him one child. After her death, in 1854, Lena Howiler became his wife, at Millersburg, Ohio, and was the



mother of two children. She died in 1858, and September, 1860, he was again married, to Sarah Elizabeth Cleveland, of Calais, Ohio. This union lasted into its fortieth year, William Henning's death occurring March 27, 1900, and nine children grew to maturity as its offspring. Of these, eight were born in Cannelton, which was the family home after 1866.

William Henning and William Cleveland Henning practiced law together and were especially active in promoting the erection of the Cannelton water-works and electric light plants, whose construction work was done during the years of 1892-93. William W. Taylor, of Pennsylvania, a brother to Bayard Taylor, the poet, was builder and first superintendent, making his home for a time in Cannelton. Some five years later the Tell City people installed their municipal system of light and water, the cornerstone of the power-house being laid with formal public exercises.

In proportion to its population no part of Indiana or of the nation showed greater interest or enthusiasm in the Columbian anniversary. October 12, 1892, found all of Perry County aglow with light and colour for "Columbus Day," and no sight more picturesque was ever witnessed in Cannelton or Tell City than the torchlight procession of that night, with their symbolic floats. Master Louis Gerard Snyder represented Columbus in the reproduction of the "Santa Maria" at Cannelton, carrying the royal Spanish standard, handwrought in satin, and on another float Queen Isabella in the midst of her courtiers was impersonated by Miss Sarah Lillian Dwyer (Mrs. Robert Curtis Clark).

Cannelton can claim with certainty to have been one among the earliest of Southern Indiana towns enjoying a public library, although the present officially acknowledged public library is separated by a half-century's distance from the modest little collection of books brought together in the early 'fifties under the style "Workingmen's Institute."



This was one out of 160 "institutes" profiting through the will of the famous William Maclure, of New Harmony, who bequeathed almost his entire fortune toward the founding of "associations for the diffusion of useful knowledge," at his death March 27, 1840, in San Angel, Mexico. His estate was left to trustees who were to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$500 to any institute or club of workingmen in the United States that could give satisfactory evidence that they were properly organized and had a reading room of one hundred volumes.

As might be expected, applications poured in from many states, until the whole fund was distributed. Cannelton was among the fortunate ones, but had no endowment for further maintenance after buying five hundred dollars' worth of books. No record is in evidence as to the dissolution of the Workingmen's Institute, and its existence is only to be traced by some of its volumes yet treasured on the private shelves of old families whose members were among its original patrons.

But the taste for reading never died out. In the summer of 1893 some fifty citizens joined in forming a subscription library, open to members and their families on payment of an entrance fee and small monthly dues. At the beginning three hundred volumes were purchased and others were added as rapidly as the limited income would permit. The books (kept in a private office), circulated widely, even beyond authorized bounds, proving the genuine demand for good reading matter. This, the city council came to recognize in 1896, by making a tax levy of one-half of one per cent. for the establishment and support of a free public library under jurisdiction of the municipal board of education.

This was felt to mark an era of progress by those who had so long and patiently striven to create and mould a local sentiment toward this end, and the immediate popularity which followed the opening of the

library fully justified the sanguine hopes of its optimistic promoters. As a recognition of the faithful and arduous individual efforts exerted in three special instances, Mrs. Isabelle (Huckeby) de la Hunt, Solomon H. Esarey, and Thomas J. Truempy were appointed the original Book Committee, and in such capacity continued for several years to supervise the selection of new books. Semi-annual purchases were usually made, thus keeping somewhat abreast of current literature, though the standard classics were never ignored, and the resulting accumulation of nearly three thousand volumes has come to represent a liberal judgment along many lines.

The first librarian was Mary Catherine Adkins (Mrs. William May), who held the post until 1900, when followed by Edward Everett Cummings, Charles A. Loesch becoming his successor after two years. In September, 1902, the library was moved from its previously cramped quarters in a narrow hallway to an airy, spacious and well-lighted room on the ground floor of the City Hall, where the books have since been kept. Direct access to the shelves has always been permitted, and through the personal labour of the Woman's Travel Club in 1915, a card catalogue was installed, although the numbering is simply that of accession and does not follow any of the standard systems of library cataloguing, such as the Dewey-Decimal or the Poole.

It is distinctly creditable to Cannelton that such an institution has been founded and kept up, even upon so small a scale, purely by civic pride. No donations have ever been received other than the volumes originally comprised in the subscription library, yet the eye of Hope still turns toward the munificence of Indiana's already liberal benefactor—Andrew Carnegie.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### NEW COURT HOUSE—FIRST HIGH SCHOOL.

AMONG numerous early stories often repeated but wholly impossible to substantiate, has been found the insistent claim of Troy to have had the pioneer newspaper printed in Perry County, represented by the Troy Gazette as founded in the year of Indiana's admission. Interesting, however, as is the subject, it is yet one altogether without documentary evidence for its verification a century later, so the case must be reluctantly dismissed with the old common-law "Scotch verdict"—Not Proven.

The only serious reference in print to any such paper which could be found was in an Illustrated Historical Atlas of Indiana, published, 1876, by Baskin, Forster and Company, Chicago. In its sketch devoted to Perry County (page 327) is found the brief statement: "In 1816 the first paper was established. It was published at Troy, and called the *Troy Gazette*."

Without depreciating the worth of the volume from a geographical standpoint, its historical material, in so far as Perry County is concerned, can not be trusted, the same page bristling with such absolute errata in dates as completely to discount its value as an authority. Merely quoting a few of its most glaring inaccuracies, the book states: "Perry County was organized in 1815" (1814). "In 1812 (1811) the first steamboat surprised the settlers." "\* \* \* Henderson (Anderson) Creek. At the mouth of this latter Thomas Lincoln and his illustrious son Abraham kept a ferry from the spring of 1814 to that of 1817, when he removed to a farm about eight miles north of Rockport, Spencer County." "Henderson" Creek is recognizable

as Anderson, but the "illustrious son Abraham" was just five years old in "the spring of 1814," certainly a tender age to qualify as ferryman and just three years before Thomas Lincoln himself made his first trip alone to Indiana. "About" is quite safely chosen to modify the "eight miles north of Rockport," where Lincoln City now stands on the "farm" in Spencer County, which was Perry County when the Lincoln family emigrated from Kentucky. Comment is superfluous, though further extracts would be equally laughable.

The theory of strongest probability, based upon minute and painstaking research carried on at Indiana University by the Department of Western History (whose chair is worthily filled by a loyal son of Perry County, Logan Esarey, Ph. D.), favours the conclusion that the Troy Gazette story had its origin in an allusion made to such a paper in the columns of the Vincennes Western Sun, as newly established in the year 1816.

Files of the Western Sun, Indiana's first newspaper, established 1804 and still published, are preserved in the University Library, and as no state was mentioned in speaking of the Troy Gazette, readers in after years assumed Indiana was meant while it was, in point of fact, New York. The Gazette, of Troy, New York, was founded in 1816, and some later items quoted from its columns by the Western Sun clearly indicate their source as from an eastern periodical. The American Antiquarian Society, of Worcester, Massachusetts, founded 1812, and the supreme authority of the United States on all such points, has given this decision, so the Troy Gazette of 1816 can not possibly be listed as an Indiana journal.

To John B. Bacon, of Troy, a son of Dr. Jesse D. and Emma (Leming) Bacon, is therefore due the distinction of establishing in 1890 the Troy Times, the first paper actually printed in Perry County's oldest town. For two years he continued its publication as a Demo-

cratic weekly, selling out in April, 1892, to Louis J. Early, of Daviess County, Kentucky, who had been engaged in journalism at Louisville, associated with William Stone Sterett ( a son of the witty "Jeff" Sterett, of the Hawesville Plaindealer), of Hancock County, in a sparkling Sunday weekly, "The Girl," devoted to society personalities, the drama, etc., printed on paper of an attractive pink tint.

The Cannelton Telephone was founded October 25, 1891, by Joseph Sanderson, of Evansville, and Edward C. Schuetz, of Cadiz, Kentucky, joint editors and proprietors until the former's withdrawal, August 12, 1892. Schuetz continued publication alone until December, when Early removed the Troy Times plant to a larger town, and the two papers were consolidated under the name Cannelton Times-Telephone. During 1893 the hyphenated title was dropped and May 1, 1894, Schuetz sold out his interest to Early, who has ever since continued as sole editor and proprietor of the Cannelton Telephone, whose politics have remained unvaryingly Democratic.

Tell City's first permanently successful Democratic newspaper is almost contemporary, Philip Zoercher having founded the Tell City News, April 10, 1891. He remained for several years in full control, placing the sheet upon an established basis, but with increasing claims upon his time abandoned journalism for politics and his profession of the law, the News then becoming the property of his younger brother, Louis Zoercher, still its editor and proprietor, besides postmaster of Tell City.

The disrepair into which the county jail and sheriff's residence had fallen during forty years of usage, led in the early 'nineties to some vigorous effort on the part of Tell City looking toward a third re-location of the county seat. As a preliminary move, strong opposition was made to the expenditure of any money on the new buildings proposed at Cannelton, but the issue was settled by the commissioners favourably to the

old site, and the present modern pressed brick sheriff's home, with stone jail in the rear, was duly erected about 1891-92.

There was still latent, however, a pardonable spirit of discontent with the antiquated court house, built about 1856 as a school house, and only remodelled for court purposes in 1859 in the emergency of moving the county seat from Rome. Its accommodations were altogether inadequate, no less than unsanitary, which Cannelton's citizens thoroughly realized along with the rest of Perry County.

The matter of distance—a mere detail of two miles—was not an argument to carry any weight against the costly modern municipal building under process of construction in the middle of Tell City's park, should it be offered as a donation to the county when complete, so Cannelton raised a fund approximating \$30,000, and employed a Louisville architect, John Bacon Hutchings (whose father had formerly owned much property in Cannelton), to design what many cultured critics have pronounced the most truly artistic court house in Southern Indiana.

A pure example of the Italian Renaissance style (followed later in the superb marble Federal Building at Indianapolis), carried out in straw-coloured pressed brick, with cut trimmings of Bedford limestone, its perfectly balanced symmetry of line is an effective illustration of the proverb, "Beauty is its own excuse for being."

Its corner-stone was laid in the presence of an immense crowd, September 10, 1896, with the Masonic symbolism of corn, wine and oil. On the Fourth of July preceding, an elaborate industrial parade had been given in Cannelton, one float being a handsome model of the building-to-be, exact in every particular of colour and ornament, built to quarter-inch scale by Charles Hafele's Sons, proprietors of the Cannelton Planing Mill. Girls from the high and grade schools represented the states of the Union on another float, grouped

around "Liberty," Miss Martha Hodde (Mrs. John J. Franzman, Jr.), "Columbia," Miss Adelia Clark (Mrs. Richard Turner Cash), and "Uncle Sam," Michael Casper. This was followed by a barbecue dinner, with dancing and other sports, at Wittmer's Avenue Garden.

In June, 1897, the completed edifice, whose interior arrangement was all that professional skill could devise in point of convenience, was turned over to the County Commissioners, who readily accepted a generous gift against whose acceptance no reasonable objection could be alleged. The old court house and square were given back to the city of Cannelton, and have been turned into a city hall, public library and park, whose shade trees form a foreground setting to the county buildings, much as if planned with the idea of a "civic centre" for which so many larger communities are striving.

The first property, other than court house or jail, which Perry County had officially acquired, was the county asylum and farm, for which provision was made in the late forties, although care of the unfortunate had begun with the organization of the county. In every township overseers of the poor were appointed, whose duty was to see that the indigent were suitably maintained, and who periodically presented their expense accounts to the county board for allowance.

Taylor Basye, Jehu Hardy and William Hatfield were appointed in June, 1847, as a special committee to select and purchase a county farm. In September they reported having bought from Terence Connor for \$900, 180 acres in section 33, township 6 South, range 1 west, lying in Tobin Township some two miles north of Rome, Joshua B. Huckleby, Samuel T. Groves and James Boyle were authorized to erect necessary buildings and repair those already standing, which was done at a cost of \$216, and in 1848 Allen M. Ferguson built a new frame asylum costing \$650, so that the entire place represented an approximate investment of \$1,800.



In September of that year Jonathan McMillan became the first superintendent.

It argues favourably for the industry or the generosity of the time that the number of inmates rarely exceeded five, so about 1853 the commissioners discontinued the asylum as a needless expense, renting the farm to tenants and placing the poor again in charge of their respective township trustees.

Cornelius Markum became superintendent in 1857, and the farm was again used as an asylum until 1860 when the county seat was moved to Cannelton. Michael Dusch, commissioner from the Cannelton district, was then empowered to rent suitable quarters for an almshouse and engage a temporary superintendent, so for several years many of the county poor were boarded under contract at 45 cents per diem by Mrs. Sarah (Stonebridge) Dwyer, in a large frame house at the corner of Sixth and Taylor streets in Cannelton, which had been erected as a boarding house for cotton mill operatives. This building is yet standing, the private residence of Mrs. Stella (Hargis) Bush, but has been so completely and expensively transformed that its original use could never be suspected.

The Tobin Township farm was first rented to John K. Groves for three years, then offered for sale at public auction, passing through the hands of Elijah B. Huckleby, Madame Félicité (Le Guerrier) Longuemare and Samuel T. Whitmarsh, none of whom ever completed their payments, until in 1879 it was bought by Mrs. Anne Fuchs, and was later known as the Eitel-george place.

Proposals for a tract of not less than five or more than twenty acres near Cannelton, Tell City or Troy, and suitable for a county farm, were called for by the commissioners in March, 1866, and in August twenty-three acres, a half-mile east of Cannelton on St. Louis Avenue extended, were bought of Lawrence Richardson for \$1,265. Plans and specifications for a brick asylum were prepared the next year, James A. Burkett and

Benjamin H. Rounds being awarded the contract in June, 1867, for \$8,948.45. The work was completed and accepted in December of that year, Patrick Lahey becoming the first superintendent in the new building.

John C. Wade succeeded him in 1869, and the two years of his incumbency were notable for the efficient ability shown by his wife as matron. Mrs. Jemima (Edwards) Wade was a woman of strong character and marked personality, and the comparatively short time of her service in county work of charities and corrections developed traits which later brought her into a similar, wider field where she laboured for many years with noble success. In 1881 she was selected as first matron of the newly organized Christian Home in Evansville, a position which she held until the end of her life, January 30, 1911. Her mental powers and bodily activity were retained to a marvellous degree, and it was only when past ninety that she consented to resign active work, when elected Honourary Matron for Life, remaining the personal guest of the trustees with executive supervision as before, up to the time of her death.

Samuel King followed John C. Wade as superintendent in 1871, and his successors during the next decade were August Nettelbeck, 1875 (when a wing to the asylum was built); William W. Scott, 1876; Wesley C. Reid, 1881; Henry M. Howard, 1884. Among the later superintendents, particular praise is due the late William T. Tinsley, who served from 1903 to 1907. With his wife, Mrs. Nancy (Colvin) Tinsley as matron, the institution was maintained at a high standard and their work received official commendation from the State Board of Charities.

The same month of September, 1896, which saw the corner-stone of the new court house laid, witnessed also the beginning of the first regularly commissioned high school in Perry County, that at Cannelton, and the major credit for having brought its work up to the requirements of the State Board of Education is due to

the energetic superintendent, George Perry Weedman, himself a native of Perry County and a lifelong educator. While the school system in Cannelton had for some years given advanced work, it was not accredited by higher institutions and its students had no recognized standing in other schools.

John R. Weathers, who took the principalship in September, 1882, formulated a curriculum of three years' high school work, and on June 19, 1885, the first "commencement" in Cannelton was held, although the diplomas were practically nothing more than certificates from a school of no established affiliation, no matter how thorough a course of study had been pursued. Six young ladies were graduated: Misses Lulu Bemiss (Mrs. —), Etta Cummings (Mrs. Charles Steinsberger), Harriet Gingell (Mrs. Schwaderer), Ella May Henning (Mrs. William Ellsworth Richey), Sissie Hurley, Daisy Permelia Marshall (Mrs. John Adam May), Hannetta Mueller (Mrs. John Vogel) and Genevieve Palmer (Mrs. Sanders). Their essays reflected the usual sentiment of academic programmes and the most individually original touch lay in the class motto which they chose for themselves: "Genius Has No Brother."

A second class was graduated under Professor Weathers' superintendency, in 1886, its membership including one young man, Walter Mark May, and six girls, Misses Lulu Cummings (Mrs. James Ulysses Powell), Sara Tevlin (Mrs. William E. Dougherty), Eliza Scott Shallcross (Mrs. Frederick Jennings), Margaret Teresa Mitchell (Mrs. E. C. H. Sieboldt), Katherine Hurley and Nellie Grace Robinson. During the subsequent ten years some several diplomas were annually awarded, as a rule, but the ceremonies were seldom more elaborate than the "public examinations" which were then regarded as an indispensable feature of "the last day of school."

It was, however, an event of genuine importance

when nine students completed a full four-years' course in required high school branches, and the large opera house which Will N. Underwood had built in 1887 never held a finer audience than on the evening of May 22, 1897, when the class of '97 received the first actual diplomas conferred by a Perry County high school.

The Rev. Palin Saxby, rector of St. Luke's church, pronounced the invocation, and the programme was diversified with vocal and instrumental music from local talent, but each graduate delivered an original oration, whose topics displayed familiarity with the classics of literature, as well as with current happenings. The speakers and their subjects were: Curtis Joseph Richey, "Over Our Manhood Bend the Skies;" Cyrus McNutt Worrall, "Nothing to Do;" Clara Loretta Dwyer (Mrs. Michael Casper), "Cato's Daughter;" John Robert May, "The Fault, Dear Brutus, is Not in Our Stars, But in Ourselves;" Michael Casper, "Resolve is What Makes Man Manliest;" Delilah Jane Turner, "What I Must Do, Not What People Think;" Arena Hunsche (Mrs. Lawrence Oncley), "Education's Best Work;" Edwin Philip May, "Oh, the Times;" and Olive Kendley (Mrs. Taylor Richey), "The Morning and the Evening."

For several years this was the only commissioned high school in the county, pupils from Tell City, Anderson, Tobin and other townships attending at Cannelton in order to make their entrance requirements for various colleges and universities.

With Christian Newman as superintendent, and James Hardin Whitmarsh as principal, however, the course of study in Tell City was raised to an approved standard, so that a commission was issued in 1904, and in the following spring the first class received their diplomas.

Commencement exercises were held Friday evening, June 2, 1905, in the Tell City Opera House, on a stage fragrant with summer flowers, amid delightful music

from Moutschka's Orchestra. The Rev. J. M. Larmore, pastor of the Methodist church, gave the invocation. A thoughtful essay, "Literature," by Bessie Viola Scull (Mrs. Matthew Roehm); an oration, "Education, the Defense of a Nation," spiritedly delivered by Bert Fenn (a young man of admirable promise, whose untimely taking away less than a year later was a source of grief to all who knew him); and an artistic impersonation, "The Marble Dream," by Cecile Schaeffer; made up the portion of the programme furnished by the graduates, after which a talk was given by Professor Kemp, of Indiana State Normal, and Eugene G. Huthsteiner, of the school board, presented the diplomas.

From that time on the classes have increased in number and enthusiasm, while the faculty also has grown apace, to meet every demand. The new edifice at the corner of Tenth and Franklin Streets is the finest and most perfectly equipped high school building in the county, with large assembly hall, gymnasium, piano, laboratories, etc. School spirit is wide-awake and fostered by an active alumni association. Athletics of every kind are given due prominence among both girls and boys, with encouraging sanction of the faculty, and a praiseworthy annual, "The Rambler," has been issued successfully for several years.

Rome's was the third high school in point of time, its first class graduated June 13, 1908, with Harold Littell as principal, consisting of Misses Hettie Isabelle Vititoe, Rebecca Ruth Shoemaker (Mrs. Noah Trainor) and Amy Josephine Bagot (Mrs. Ira Longanecker). Each of these took part in the commencement exercises in the historic old academy, though the leading feature was the baccalaureate address delivered by one of the most cultured and scholarly speakers who ever graced a Perry County rostrum, Lewis Chase, Ph.D., of Columbia University, later a professor in the University of Bordeaux, and now prominent in the literary circles of London.

Since then, the spirit has diffused itself into every township of the county, so that accredited high schools are now in successful operation in Troy, Tobinsport, Bristow, Leopold, Branchville, Union Township and Anderson Township.

Verily, a far cry from the primitive, pioneer beginnings of education in Perry County.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### PRESENT CENTURY EVENTS.

KEEPING abreast with the universal advance of woman in every activity of the world's progress, early in the Twentieth Century, or on September 30, 1801, to be exact, Tell City Chapter No. 272, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted with impressively elaborate ritual in the Masonic hall at Tell City.

Its first officers were Mrs. Eva (Schloth) Schreiber, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Anna (Menninger) Patrick, Assistant Matron; Emma Menninger, Secretary; Mrs. Emilie (Stuehrk) Mason, Treasurer; Mrs. Martha (McAdams) Zoercher, Conductress; Mrs. Elizabeth (Gautchie) Heinzle, Assistant Conductress; Louise Kasser (Mrs. Gurley Purdue) Adah; Mrs. Mary (Riedlinger) Kasser, Ruth; Emma Bader (Mrs. Phillips), Esther; Clara Patrick, Martha; Mrs. Emma (Rudin) Rheinlander, Electa; Zillah Walters (Mrs. D. Eugene Hicks), Warder; William H. Schaeffer, Worthy Patron; Christian Zoercher, Jr., Sentinel.

Nineteen names are on the charter-roll, and one of these members has since attained the most exalted Masonic honour which the craft in Indiana can award to a woman, Mrs. Martha (McAdams) Zoercher, now resident in Indianapolis, having been elected Grand Matron for her native state at the Grand Chapter of 1914.

Among those who had signed the application for a charter were two enthusiastic Masonic daughters, Misses Flora Menninger and Alice Patrick, who were prevented by absence from becoming charter members. Ill health, from which she never recovered, had compelled the former to seek a change of climate in the "Sunshine State," Colorado, whither the latter, her de-



voted niece, accompanied her; but an interesting personal detail is the fact that Miss Patrick (Mrs. Louis Zoercher) later enjoyed the privilege of being the local chapter's first initiate.

The first move toward definite club work among the women of Perry County also had its beginning in Tell City about 1906, and the name of Mrs. Robert Proctor Carr (Anna Upton) may be given as its virtual founder. The Women's Reading Club then organized and now in full swing of success, had for its original officers: Mrs. Philip Zoercher (Martha McAdams), president; Mrs. R. P. Carr, secretary. Owing to removal, neither of these energetic women is now a member of the club, though their strong influence is still felt and gratefully acknowledged among their co-workers.

As the community center of a rich agricultural section, Tobinsport has always been peculiarly the home of Farmers' Institute work in Perry County, and women have always had a place among the annual instructors, no less than among the intelligently interested listeners. In November, 1912, directly following an institute session, the Tobinsport Home Economics Club was formed with Mrs. W. O. Little (Ethel Booker), as its first president; Mrs. J. Curtis Ryan (Mollie Clark), treasurer, and Mrs. James H. Payne (Addie Polk Miller), secretary. Their work is conducted along lines of university extension in domestic science, directed from Purdue.

About a year later, in 1913, also under the sponsorship of Purdue, a number of Tell City's progressive housekeepers organized a home economics club, which is one of the most influential societies in the town. Its original officers were Mrs. John Sweeney (Louise Marti), president; Mrs. John Herrmann (Dora Kay Simonson), vice-president; Mrs. Louis Zoercher (Alice Patrick), secretary; Mrs. Frank Oberle (Anna Vogel), treasurer.

The Woman's Travel Club, of Cannelton, was organ-

ized in September, 1914, with Mrs. Lee Rodman (Margherita Welling), president; Mrs. Frank H. Clemens (Marguerite Cullen), vice-president; Mrs. D. Eugene Hicks (Zillah Walters), secretary-treasurer. Their first year's programme was one of foreign study, but for 1915-16 Indiana History was chosen as the major topic, together with current events and practical plans for civic improvement and beautification.

In the same year with the Eastern Star, though some months earlier, another national fraternal order made its entry into the county, March 15, 1901, when Cannelton Camp No. 9348, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized, with the following officers: Venerable Council, Claude T. Hendershot; Adviser, Arthur E. Stewart; Clerk, William Guthrie Minor; Banker, Charles L. Bartles; Escort, John D. Rathsam; Watchman, Charles P. Marshall; Sentry, Thomas H. Doughty; Trustees, Anton Zellers, J. W. Maxwell, Charles H. Walls.

In the galaxy of Hoosier literature "Ben-Hur" has carried the name and fame of Lew Wallace clear around the world, and a national benevolent society, founded in 1894 in Indiana, at General Wallace's home town of Crawfordsville, was appropriately styled The Tribe of Ben-Hur. It was introduced into Perry County about 1904 by Dr. Millard F. Wedding and Rodney W. Shoemaker, both of Rome, where their efforts formed a local branch. Its charter was held as an open one for something like two years, or until 1906, when Rome Lodge No. 283, T. B. H., was officially installed, with Samuel G. Reynolds as Chief, Doctor Wedding as Scribe, and Samuel S. Connor as Keeper of Tribute.

One of the youngest among the great fraternal orders is the Knights of Columbus, and its nation-wide growth had measured not quite a quarter century when its introduction to Perry County took place, January 13, 1907. On that day Cannelton Council No. 1172, was formally instituted the initiation work conducted by degree teams from visiting councils in I. O. O. F.

Hall (courteously lent for the occasion). This required several hours of continuous ceremony, and was followed by a banquet in St. Patrick's Hall, into which the second St. Patrick's church (built 1882 at the corner of Sixth and Adams Streets), had been changed on the union of the two Roman Catholic parishes.

Fifty charter members from Cannelton, Tell City, Troy and other places in the county were enrolled and the first officers installed at this same time were: Norman E. Patrick, Grand Knight; William E. Dougherty, Deputy Grand Knight; Martin F. Casper, Chancellor; Joseph M. Hirsch, Recorder; Anthony J. Kirst, Financial Secretary; Peter H. Casper, Treasurer; Henry M. Clemens, Lecturer; Michael D. Casper, Advocate; Thomas Cullen, Warden; Francis J. Busam, Inside Guard; Edward J. Stich, Outside Guard; George W. Hufnagel, Joseph J. Graves, Andrew Vogel, Trustees; the Rev. George H. Moss, Chaplain.

Although other industries have been undertaken at different times with varying degrees of success, the most important manufacturing enterprises inaugurated in Perry County since the early days of Cannelton and Tell City have been the United States Hame Company and the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company.

About 1903-04 the Herrman Brothers' factory in Tell City was taken over by the United States Hame Company, but remained for two years on the old site at Ninth and Blum Streets, under supervision of Charles F. Herrman. During 1905-06 extensive plans were perfected for enlarging the plant and Robert Proctor Carr came from Andover, New Hampshire, to assume the duties of superintendent. Ground was purchased just south of the original corporate limits of Tell City, lying along the old Cannelton and Troy plank road (now Riverside Drive) and reaching as far as the Brazee homestead, "Mulberry Park." Situated between the river and the Southern Railway, excellent transportation facilities were thus available on either side, and a vast equipment of buildings was erected

there, and machinery installed, making a plant which is an accepted model of its kind. The weekly output of hames (22,000 pair) is the largest of any factory in the world, and the operating force when running full time, is over two hundred men.

The superior qualities and inexhaustible quantities of the clay underlying the hills at Cannelton were touched upon more than once in the official reports of State Geologist Blatchley, and its availability for sewer pipe of the highest grade had been demonstrated by test, but its use was long confined to the manufacture of pottery by the original Clark Brothers, the later distinct firm of Clark Brothers, and the Cannelton Stoneware and Pottery Company, of which J. Crutcher Shallcross is president.

In 1908-09, however, the Cannelton Sewer Pipe Company was organized by local and Louisville capital, and ground procured just opposite the Southern Railway station at Front and Adams Streets. The old hotel, built in 1849 by the American Cannel Coal Company, still occupied a part of the premises and a portion of it was utilized for offices, moulding rooms, etc. A four-story brick factory was erected, with a battery of twelve kilns, whose number was increased to eighteen during the next year, by the growing demands of the business, which proved a success from the outset.

Henry M. Clemens is official manager, and Anthony P. Clemens superintendent of the working force which numbers eighty people, in addition to the office corps and traveling salesmen. Two thousand tons of native clay are worked up each month, at a fuel expenditure of twelve hundred tons of coal, producing an annual output of 1,000 carloads of finished ware, and the yearly pay-roll is near \$50,000.

Inspired by a laudable sentiment of local pride, the citizens of Tell City arranged to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their town's foundation by a fitting golden jubilee, a "Home-Coming Week," the first in Perry County, held June 28 to July 4, 1908. The occa-

sion was carefully planned and excellently advertised in advance, so that fully twenty-five hundred visitors enjoyed the gala week, many of whom came back from afar after long years of absence.

Home-Coming Sunday opened the programme, with commemorative morning services in all the churches, and an afternoon concert of choral and instrumental music in the park. Monday at 2 p. m. a reception to old settlers was given in the park, Philip Zoercher delivering an address of welcome, to which Albert Bettinger, of Cincinnati, responded. A display of fireworks from a barge in the river was a night feature, for which seats were arranged all along the waterfront. Tuesday morning a Schoolmates' Reunion in the old North Building revived memories of childhood years as nothing else could have done, teachers and pupils coming together once more in the familiar rooms to recall days that were gone but not forgotten. Wednesday, an old-fashioned basket picnic was held at Camp Sherman, itself the scene of so many historic associations, the ground being placed at public disposal through the graceful courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Fenn (Anna Zoercher) who had built a summer home there as part of their large fruit farm. A baseball game between Tell City and Rockport was also a feature. At 9 o'clock Thursday morning memorial addresses were pronounced in the First Evangelical church, by Gustave L. Spillman, in English, and Dr. William Simon, in German. Friday was devoted to visiting the manufacturing plants, all of which were in operation and open to sightseers, with guides in attendance to explain and demonstrate. Saturday, the "Glorious Fourth" witnessed a patriotic celebration of Independence Day, with all the customary and appropriate observances. A pyrotechnic display was given every night, two halls were opened for dancing, and a variety of popular entertainment was furnished by a carnival company presenting sundry free attractions of street fair nature.

Probably the only monthly magazine ever published in Perry County, one of uncommon character among a small class of its kind, is the Derby Game Bird, established September, 1892, by Alexander ("Eck") W. Cummings, and printed for nearly eighteen years on his farm a few miles south of Derby. Its circulation ran into the thousands, and as an advertising medium in its particular field none was rated higher.

The material details of its production on so large a scale in the country, added to the inconvenience of distribution through a small postoffice twelve miles from a railroad, led in the spring of 1910 to a removal to Tell City; although the old name has been retained. Larger presses and equipment were purchased, permitting a weekly journal to be printed in the same office, so on June 25, 1910, appeared the inaugural number of the Perry County Tribune, as a Republican sheet, with Uriah B. Cummings, son of Alexander and Jennie (Ballard) Cummings, as its proprietor and editor.

The November election of 1912 in which the Democracy headed by Wilson and Marshall won such sweeping victories in state and nation, brought additional honours to a Tell City man who had already represented his home county in the Legislatures of 1887 and 1889, Philip Zoercher, who was chosen to the responsible office of reporter of the Indiana Supreme Court. He had been graduated in law from Central Normal College at Danville (a small but effective institution among whose other Perry County alumni have been William G. and Oscar C. Minor, Solomon H. and Logan Esarey, Ferdinand Becker, II, Joseph Herr and Gustave A. Fischer), nor was the element of school-room romance lacking, through the fact that he there first met his wife (Martha McAdams, of Plainfield) as a fellow-student.

So great was the enthusiasm over the result on both sides of the Ohio that arrangements were made for a joint Indiana-Kentucky ratification in which Perry and Hancock Counties should unite. Cannelton, as the



larger town and equally accessible with Hawesville, was fixed upon as the place and Thursday evening, November 21, as the time. Free ferriage transported Kentuckians by the hundred from Hawesville, Lewisport, Pellville, Utility, Skillman and other Hancock County points, while Tell City, Troy, Leopold, Bristow, Rome, Derby and practically all the rest of Perry County were in Cannelton on that night.

Fully a thousand persons were in the parade, which was one continuous circuit of red fire from its starting point at Seventh and Adams Streets to its culmination at the court house in a magnificent tableau of blended colours. County Clerk William V. Doogs, dressed in white and mounted on a white horse, headed the procession, carrying the national standard, while the other mounted marshals were Mayor Oscar O. Denny, D. Eugene Hicks and James Evrard. The Hawesville Concert Band furnished instrumental music; young women dressed in white sang patriotic songs; another float held "Jubilee Singers and Orchestra," Joseph M. Hirsch, leader; John Hambleton, John Hayes, Charles Barney, Charles Fishback, Edward Wittmer and William Whelan, who warbled and played characteristic Southern melodies; a drum corps comprising Theodore Gerber, Edward Minnett, Harry Belleville and Oscar Lehmann contributed volume if not harmony. Eighteen differently inscribed transparencies were carried; from motor-car to ox-cart ranged the variety of vehicles; and near a hundred horsemen were in the line which passed through brilliantly illuminated streets, densely thronged by a crowd which the next week's Cannelton Telephone estimated at from 6,000 to 8,000 people.

An immense bonfire on the hill point above Taylor Street lighted up the heavens for miles and was visible at Troy and Tobinsport, where also could be heard the presidential salutes of artillery discharged at frequent intervals.

When the parade disbanded, the court house was already filled, but many others crowded in, to hear the



famed eloquence of Augustus Owsley Stanley, then a candidate for United States Senator, but elected Governor of Kentucky in November, 1915. After a musical selection, Chairman Henry M. Clemens presented Edward E. Kelly, of Newport, Kentucky, a former Hancock County boy, as the first speaker. His talk was brief, mainly an effective introduction of Stanley, whose glowing effort then held his listeners for fifty-five minutes in rapt attention. As a conclusion to the meeting, a ratification ball was announced to follow immediately in Acme Hall, where Hoosier and Corn-cracker—Democrat or Republican—merrily danced until the wee sma' hours ayont the twel'.

The unprecedented record of two excessive freshets within less than three months of each other will make the year 1913 forever memorable in the natural history of the Ohio Valley. 1832, 1883 and 1884 had long been marked points to reckon from, and 1907 came close to reaching these in height.

Heavy rains in January, 1913, brought a rise of unexpected swiftness, so that like most of the other towns along both banks the lower portions of Cannelton, Tell City, Troy and Hawesville were submerged. Many families were driven from their homes on short notice. Train service was annulled over the Cannelton branch of the Southern Railway and over the Henderson route for its entire length, as miles of both tracks were under water, and every factory in Tell City was at a standstill. The Tell City Journal of Wednesday, January 15, came out in half-sheet form, with boxed headlines explaining that the water was then rushing into their rear press-room and their motor clogged so that work had to be done by hand.

Unofficial bulletins indicated the river falling above, so the crest of the rise was expected on that day, but the town was described as a complete peninsula. The river washed the foot of Camp Sherman hill at the south, and toward the north spread for miles in the direction of Windy Creek and Troy, while the water-way

down Eighth (Main) Street was "a pretty, though costly, spectacle."

But the terrible cloud-bursts which swept across the states of Indiana and Ohio during Easter week (beginning March 23) of that year carried such fatalities of devastation to towns and cities in the Wabash, White, Whitewater, Miami, Scioto, Olentangy and Muskingum Valleys, that the mere flood-tide which resulted in the lower Ohio was not a circumstance of danger in comparison.

After two days of continuous rainfall in Perry County the weather cleared and fine spring days followed during which it was a marvelous sight to watch the river steadily climbing until all records had been surpassed. There was less suffering or inconvenience than there had been in January, every one threatened having had time to move to higher ground. Tuesday morning, April 1, the water overtopped a marker in the Indiana Cotton Mill premises placed there by Superintendent Wilber. Set into a sandstone block is a marble slab inscribed: "The top of this stone is level with the high water mark here February 18, 1883, and 18 inches higher than the high water mark of 1832." The record of 1884 was  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches higher than that of 1883, and it was generally conceded that 1913 exceeded this in both Cannelton and Tell City.

Owing to alteration in street and sidewalk grades it was difficult to determine the question in the absence of permanent markers, but on Thursday, April 3, skiffs were landing in Washington Street, Cannelton, at the intersection of Smith (between Second and Third), while Tell City's Eighth (Main) Street was under water as far north as the Citizens' Bank building between Humboldt and Franklin; and Seventh Street for its entire length was a canal or lagoon through which plied every variety of craft, from the plebeian joe-boat to the aristocratic gasoline launch.

Public utilities of electric light and water works were cut off in both towns. No trains nor steamboats ran.

Telegraph and telephone service was virtually discontinued, and mails were completely suspended for more than a week. With all these discomforts, general good humour prevailed. Idle business allowed much interchange of neighbourly visiting. Kodaks and cameras were in evidence on all sides, so that the pictorial story of April, 1913, can be accurately reproduced in the years yet to come.

During the autumn of this eventful year steps were taken in Tell City toward the formation of a Moose Lodge, and on October 13, 1913, Tell City Lodge No. 1424, Loyal Order of Moose was organized. Its first officers installed were: William T. Hargis, Dictator; Louis A. Siebert, Vice-Dictator; Richard C. Bohm, Prelate; Sidney C. Cummings, Secretary; Gustave A. Fischer, Treasurer; Carl A. Bergis, Sergeant-at-Arms; Joseph Wulf, Inner Guard; Floyd Blackford, Outer Guard; Theodore Brenner, Edward J. Schultz, Frank J. Becker, Trustees.

At the beginning of 1915 the personal enthusiasm of several young men agitated the organization of a militia company in Tell City, resulting in the enlistment of seventy-five men. They were sworn into service on February 14, as Company I, of the Second Indiana Regiment, with Sidney C. Cummings, captain; Volmar Franz, first lieutenant; Edwin D. Patrick, second lieutenant. The company went into camp during the summer, at Indianapolis, with the state guard, and for such a new body of troops made a most excellent official rating.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### INDIANA CENTENNIAL.

The approach of the state's centenary of admission was recognized by the General Assembly of 1915 by the appropriation of \$25,000 toward creating the Indiana Historical Commission, a part of whose duties (according to the act) were to be: 1. "To edit and publish in such form as it may determine documentary materials on the history of the State of Indiana. 2. To prepare and execute plans for an historical and educational celebration of the Centennial of the State."

"The Commission may arrange such exhibits, pageants and celebrations as it may deem proper to illustrate the epochs in the growth of Indiana; to reveal its past and present resources in each field of activity; to teach the development of industrial, agricultural and social life, and the conservation of natural resources."

At the head ex-officio, of this Commission was His Excellency Governor Samuel M. Ralston, as President; Dr. Frank B. Wynn, of Indianapolis, Vice-President; Dr. Harlow Lindley, of Earlham College, Secretary, were the other officers, with Miss Charity Dye and Charles W. Moores, of Indianapolis; Samuel M. Foster, of Fort Wayne; Dr. James A. Woodburn, of Indiana University; the Rev. Dr. John Cavanaugh, of Notre Dame University, and Lewis M. O'Bannon, of Corydon, as the remaining six members required. These elected Dr. Walter C. Woodward, of Indianapolis, as director, with Miss Lucy Elliott, of Tipton, as assistant.

Provision for state-wide correlation of the work was made through the appointment of ninety-two county chairmen, as a grand commission of the whole, and in August, 1915, Thomas James de la Hunt (II) was appointed Perry County chairman. A county organiza-

tion reaching every town and township was immediately planned and effected, so that on Thursday, September 9, Dr. Lindley, who addressed a public meeting at the court house in Cannelton, was also able to hold a personal conference with practically the entire membership of the Perry County Centennial Committee.

This body was made up (in addition to the chairman) of: Cannelton, Mrs. Lee Rodman (Margherita Welling), President Woman's Travel Club; Mayor Thomas J. Truempy; County School Superintendent Lee Mullen; William Preston Minor; the Rev. James Shea, pastor St. Michael's Church; Louis J. Early. Tell City, Mrs. William Krogman (Claudine Voelke), President Home Economics Club; Mrs. Frederick G. Heinzle (Elizabeth Gauthie), President Woman's Reading Club; Mayor Frederick G. Heinzle; Emil Mangel, High School Principal. Troy, Miss Josephine Nicolay. Tobinsport, Mrs. James H. Payne (Addie Polk Miller), Secretary Home Economics Club. Rome, Miss Lelia Lucetta Johnson, High School Principal. Anderson Township, Mrs. Howard M. Royal (Mary H. Batson). Clark Township, Miss Mary Lomax. Oil Township, Miss Emma Holmes, High School Principal. Union Township, Miss Mary Burke, High School Principal. Leopold Township, Oscar M. Wilbur, Tobin Township, Frank Sanders. Troy Township, Arthur G. Zimmerman.

Each one of these fully realized the lofty purpose of the great movement to do honour to the founders of our Commonwealth; to reveal the history of Indiana to the people of Indiana; and the people to themselves, by stopping to consider what had been done in a hundred years.

The work called—undeniably—for personal sacrifice of time and energy, yet merely considering Indiana's honour roll of character in every line of achievement could not fail to awaken in the most listless a patriotism meaning state-wide, nation-wide and international interest; a patriotism meaning unstinted, honest public and social service; a patriotism engaging the individual

exertion of every Hoosier in the upbuilding of the State, and showing what it means to live for one's country and to make it a country worth dying for.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Beautiful River still flows toward the distant sea along its westward course which for an eventful century has marked the southern boundary of a proud and noble commonwealth—Indiana; rushing tumultuously over those rapids known as the Falls of the Ohio, but gliding smoothly past the half-hundred winding miles of Perry County's coast-line. Men may come and men may go:—still it listens to the story of To-day which shall sometime be the history of Yesterday.

FINIS

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